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Hafa Adai!

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ERWIN ENCINARES
Board of Education member Herman Guerrero poses for a final photo with his Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration committee yesterday.

Guerrero bids farewell to BOE committee

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Long-time CNMI Board of Education member Herman Guerrero bid farewell to a committee he chairs yesterday, with his final board meeting as a board member this Thursday morning.

Guerrero, chairman of the BOE committee on Fiscal and Personnel Administration, said goodbye to its members as it was his last time presiding the committee as a board member. His last appearance in the board as a member would be this coming Thursday morning, during the BOE meeting.

Guerrero was first elected to serve

See BOE on **Page 4**

TO OBTAIN WHATSAPP CONVERSATIONS

FBI seizes Mayor Atalig's cellphone

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Atalig

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents seized last Nov. 29 the CNMI government-issued cellular phones of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, and two others in order to obtain their WhatsApp conversations during their trip in Guam last June.

According to court documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, FBI special agents seized the phones after obtaining a search warrant issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Aside from the phones of mayor Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, FBI spe-

See FBI on **Page 4**

Motorists welcome continuous gas price decrease

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

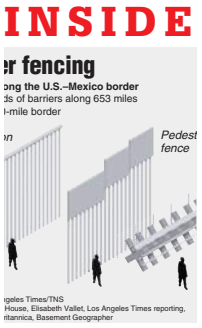
The continuous decrease of gas prices has been serving the CNMI community well since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu over two months ago.

Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas have lowered their gas prices yet again and it has been affecting CNMI residents positively.

See MOTORISTS on **Page 4**

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Mobil Oil Marianas lowered its gas prices for the fourth time since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu last Oct. 24, 2018.

INSIDE



BUSINESS
With no breakthrough in sight, President Donald Trump will argue his case to the nation Tuesday night that a "crisis" at the U.S.-Mexico border requires the long and invulnerable wall he's demanding before ending the partial government shutdown.
PAGE 13

WORLD
A Venezuelan Supreme Court justice and longtime government loyalist who fled the socialist country for a new life in the United States called Nicolas Maduro an incompetent president leading the once-wealthy country to ruins.
PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
Kevin Spacey pleaded not guilty Monday to groping an 18-year-old busboy in 2016 in the first criminal case brought against the disgraced actor following a string of sexual misconduct allegations that crippled his career.
PAGE 21

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

TSLF, TanHoldings, partners deliver 'Buckets of Hope' to Tinian

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings representatives were on Tinian last Dec. 19 to distribute "Buckets of Hope" to residents impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu.

TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan led a team of executives for a brief presentation ceremony at the Tinian Mayor's Office. Tinian acting mayor and chairman of the 16th Municipal Council, Edwin Hofschneider, and representative-elect Antonio SN. Borja were on hand to receive the donation.

Immediately following the presentation ceremony, Tan and his team delivered "Buckets of Hope" to residents of Broadway Estates.

"The holiday season is a very important time for the community to come together to help those still impacted by Yutu. I am happy to have made it out to Tinian with my team to personally deliver our 'Buckets of Hope' in time for Christmas," said Tan.

"It is our hope that these buckets provide optimism for the future amidst Yutu's devastation. We know that recovery and rebuilding will take time. We are a resilient community and we will get through this together," added Tan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Acting Tinian mayor/chairman of the 16th Municipal Council Edwin Hofschneider (second from right) accepts more than 300 "Buckets of Hope" from TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan (far right) on behalf of the people of Tinian.

"We prepared and shipped to Tinian more than 300 'Buckets of Hope.' The buckets contain a mix of items including liquid laundry detergent, bath soap, canned food, milk, juice, snacks, instant noodles, batteries, etc.," TSLF general manager Merlie Tolentino indicated.

"This effort and these gifts of hope were supported and made possible through our partnership with the Guam Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Chinese Association, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Tinian Municipal Operations Center," she continued.

Tan's team included TanHoldings vice president for business development Alex Sablan, vice president for corporate affairs/human resources Catherine Attao, Tolentino, and Community Relations director Carline Sablan. Vanessa Manglona, Tito Manglona, and Wally Villagomez of the Tinian Municipal Operations Center coordinated the distribution of the buckets.

"On behalf of Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and the people of Tinian, we are extremely appreciative of this generous donation from the TSLF, TanHoldings, and their partners. It will surely lift the spirits of our residents, most especially our children and *man'amko*," said Hofschneider. "We are most grateful for Jerry and Tan Holding's continued support of our community and are humbled by such generosity," he added. ***(PR)***

TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan shares a light moment with former Tinian mayor Ray Dela Cruz.

TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan hands a "Bucket of Hope" to a resident of Broadway Estates.

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Acting Tinian mayor/chairman of the 16th Municipal Council Edwin Hofschneider (far left), TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan (third from left), and the distribution team at the Aldan residence delivering a "Bucket of Hope."

Senate rejects bid to amend Article XI

The Senate yesterday rejected a House Legislative Initiative that would amend sections of the CNMI Constitution that dealt with the management of public lands. All eight members of the Senate present voted no. Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) was excused

H.L.I. 20-1, HS1, HD2 plans to amend Sections II to VI of Article XI. Section III is about the management and disposition of public lands, Section IV established the Marianas Public Land Corp., Section V is the MPLC's fundamental policies, and Section VI established the Marianas Public Land Trust.

CNMI Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan, in a letter sent to floor leader and Senate Resources, Economic Development, and Programs chair Se. Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) after his office reviewed H.L.I. 20-1, said that the initiative has the intention of securing funds for public benefit. "However, given the fact that the initiative seeks to only benefit a distinct racial group, I must recommend against passage in its current form."

"Furthermore, the initiative presents two issues that, while being constitutionally sound, present serious financial ramifications. Removing the interest generated on trust proceeds from the general fund will deprive the [CNMI] of a significant portion of revenue that is already earmarked to repay large loans to MPLT."

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), in an interview with the media after the session, said the concerns raised by Manibusan are constitutional issues that is of a major concern to the Commonwealth.

"Obviously, the version that came out of the House did not addressed that. So, having the session today, trying to address the amendments necessary, would have required us to go back and our [Senate] legal counsel to put all these things together. Being the issue on the table for a short period of time," said Palacios.

"We support the intent and purpose of [H.L.I. 20-1] but it needed to be cleaned up. Rather than, it was laid on the table, the Senate decided to make a statement. This is an important legislation, but without those fix and amendments that are necessary, as recommended by the AG, I think that the version is not complete and that's why we voted it down."

He then added that hopefully the incoming members of the 21st Legislature would take up the issue and put in the amendments recommended by the AG. The inauguration for the 21st Legislature is on Monday, Jan. 14. ***(Jon Perez)***

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Dela Cruz family thanks CNMI

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The family of the late Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) are thankful for the love, prayers, and support shown by the entire community to them and the former House vice speaker.

Divana M. Dela Cruz, the eldest of four children of the late legislator and wife Lisa, said that they were not prepared for the sudden passing of their father.

"The Lord never prepared us for the heartache like this and the pain I see in our mom's eyes, but we do want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers. Although he was taken so soon, the life that he did live has left an impression to so many," said Divana.

"It's evident the impact that my dad had on our community from all the beautiful messages through text and social media, and that's all one could ever hope for. Please know that we've been reading them and that our family is forever grateful."

She added, "We again thank our family and friends on Saipan and Tinian, to all the people overseas who have said prayers for him, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and family, and all the colleagues of our father, my Judiciary family, and the departments of Public Safety, and Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Thank you all for what you have done and continue to do."

Divana said her father's funeral is on Jan. 19 with the burial rites to be held at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. "It will be a state funeral with a memorial hosted by the Legislative Bureau. The date is to be determined.

The Senate, in yesterday's session, has also introduced a resolution—Senate Resolution 20-43—honoring the distinguished and honorable life in public service of the six-term legislator from Precinct 3.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said the resolution, introduced by the committee of the whole, honors the dedication of public service by Dela Cruz to the people of the CNMI.

"We all know congressman Frank. We worked with him. We were shocked upon hearing the news. We want to recognize the contributions he made to the people of the Commonwealth."

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said the CNMI was caught off guard and was surprised on the untimely passing of their fellow lawmaker from the House. "We all know congressman Frank is a hard-working public servant in the Legislature."

"Having served with him in previous Legislatures, me as a member of the Senate and him at the House, we surely are going to miss his presence up here. I just wanted to express my condolences to the family for his untimely passing," added Hofschneider.

Dela Cruz, 56, died last Sunday while visiting his family and friends on Tinian. His remains were transported back to Saipan last Monday.

BOE

From Page 1

in the CNMI BOE back in 1999, and has been board chair for at least six years within his tenure. All in all, Guerrero has served about five consecutive terms in the board.

The long-time member noted in a previous interview that he would not be seeking reelection since it is unconstitutional. However, he wishes that the board even without him would continue to prioritize students in their agenda.

"We should encourage the students to grow and flourish…the board should do it as a team. It is the only way you could move ahead," he said.

Guerrero noted that he has met with incoming BOE member Andrew Orsini, who would be representing Saipan. He reportedly approached Guerrero for tips on the position.

"…You need to listen to what is going on, try to get a feel of what is happening within the system. You cannot expect to know everything, even if you think you know everything from the outside," he said as some of the tips he gave Orsini. "My [advice] is listen. Do not try to underestimate the Public School System commissioner as well," he added.

"The board's responsibility is to come up with rules and regulations, so they should not interfere too much [with PSS] and running the school system, because that is not their role," he continued.

He noted that his advice is from the CNMI Constitution.

Besides his contributions to the educational system in the CNMI, Guerrero has also been active in politics. He served as the special advisor to the U.S. delegation of the United Nations Trusteeship Council in 1981 and from 1983 through 1986, and was also an assistant to the resident representative to the U.S. for the CNMI from 1979 through January 1990.

In 1992 through 1994, Guerrero was elected into office at the House of Representatives for the 8th CNMI Legislature, and also served as the president and member of the second and third NMI Constitutional Conventions in 1985 and 1995, while in 1994 through 1997, he served as the chairman of the Advisory Commission on Compensations of the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators, justices, and judges, mayors, and resident representative of the U.S.

Besides the political career, Guerrero also actively participated in community events as a member of the Hawaii Student Financial Aid Association from 1973 to 1975, a member of the Saipan Municipal Scholarship Board from 1977 to 1979, a judge of the 1st Miss CNMI Teen Pageant in 1992 and the 28th annual Miss Guam Universe pageant in 1991; Saipan Chamber of Commerce director from 1989 to 1992, and more.

"I don't know… Perhaps I haven't thought too much of it yet. I don't like sitting around doing nothing, I need to do something—maybe help out in other areas, but I need to do something," Guerrero said in an interview, responding to a question of his plans about the near future.

"I'll try to get a business license to see if anybody is interested in [my assistance], I have it [the business license]," he said, adding that both the public and private sectors are within his scope.

MOTORISTS

From Page 1

As of yesterday, both Mobil Saipan and Shell Saipan brought their gas prices down from $4.03 per gallon of Extra fuel to $3.93 per gallon and their Supreme fuel is down from $4.40 per gallon to $4.30.

According to Jon Bait, a 47-year-old Saipan resident, the continuous decrease in gas prices has been beneficial for those who are still on the road to recovery following Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I think it's great that the gas price went down again because we, as consumers, get to save money especially after the crisis we are going through…we needed the gas prices to drop more than ever because some residents, like myself, still do not have power and rely on generators that run on fuel," he said.

Samantha Francisco said that the roll back in gas prices is the best thing to happen after Super Typhoon Yutu.

Grace Velena, a 23-year-old female CNMI resident, said that she was ecstatic to find out that the price of fuel continues to roll back, especially since Super Typhoon Yutu affected almost everyone, but she is curious about the reason behind the continuous roll back.

McKinley Masaharu said that he "freaked out" to see the gas at $3.93 and although it's a good thing it continues to decrease, he hopes that it stops fluctuating.

The CNMI saw its first gas price rollback of 2018 a month following Super Typhoon Yutu. Mobil brought its prices down from $4.53 per gallon of Extra fuel to $4.43 per gallon and its Supreme fuel went down from $4.90 per gallon to $4.80.

The second price rollback after Yutu was seen in early December. Mobil brought its prices down by 20 cents, dropping its price from $4.43 per gallon of Extra fuel to $4.23 per gallon and its Supreme fuel from $4.80 per gallon to $4.60.

The third rollback was seen on Dec. 17. Mobil brought its price down from $4.23 per gallon of Extra fuel to $4.13 per gallon and its Supreme fuel from $4.60 per gallon to $4.50.

The fourth rollback was seen on Dec. 24. Mobil brought its price down from $4.13 per gallon of Extra fuel to $4.03 per gallon and its Supreme fuel from $4.50 per gallon to $4.40.

FBI

From Page 1

cial agents also seized the cell phones of Rota resident deputy commissioner for the Department of Fire and Emergency and Medical Services Dennis Mendiola and Rota resident director for the Department of Finance Josepha Manglona.

Mendiola and Manglona were among the seven Rota municipal officials charged by the Office of the Attorney General before the Superior Court in connection with the Guam political rally in June 2018. Mayor Atalig was also charged in that case.

Last Nov. 28, the U.S. government filed a superseding indictment in federal court charging mayor Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, with five corruption charges for allegedly arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Republic of Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The superseding indictment charged mayor Atalig and Ms. Atalig with conspiracy, wire fraud, theft from program receiving federal funds, and two counts of false statements.

Mayor Atalig and Evelyn Atalig pleaded not guilty.

In his affidavit in support of search warrant, FBI special agent Haejun Park disclosed that on June 22, 2018, the FBI received a referral from the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor advising of a 14-person delegation traveling from Rota to Guam on a CNMI-funded five-day trip.

Park said the trip was under the guise of procuring used federal government equipment from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) located on the U.S. Navy base in Guam.

Park said the CNMI government has previously procured used government equipment from the DLA on previous occasions.

Coincidentally, he said, a campaign rally for Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and his then-runningmate Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) was scheduled for June 23, 2018 in Mangilao, Guam.

Park said the rally was highly advertised on social media.

The special agent said OPA provided numerous documents to the FBI, including CNMI travel authorizations for several members of the Rota delegation.

Park said during the FBI's interview in Guam last July 23, a DLA employee advised that in June 2015, an unidentified male from Rota showed up at the DLA office in Guam unannounced and attempted to visit the facility, which is not the established process to visit the facility for official business.

The employee denied access to the unidentified male since the visit was not coordinated through the CNMI government's liaison to the DLA.

Park said according to the DLA employee after denying him access, the individual became angry.

The individual then stated that he would speak to someone above the CNMI liaison and also advised the DLA employee that he was on Guam for his military service drill and only wanted to stop at the DLA to see what equipment was available.

Park said the DLA employee stated that the last visit to the DLA facility by CNMI officials occurred in March 2018, which followed the correct protocol and was coordinated through the CNMI liaison.

Park said as further confirmation, sign-in logs did not show anyone from Rota visiting the facility in June 2018, and also confirmed that the last CNMI visit occurred in March 2018.

Park said during the FBI's separate interview in Guam last July 23, the CNMI liaison advised that she did not coordinate any CNMI visits to the DLA for the month of June 2018.

Park said that, in June 2018, the CNMI liaison denied a late request from an employee of mayor Atalig's office.

The FBI special agent said that he interviewed on Rota last Aug. 9, Rota resident director for the Department of Commerce Dean Reynold Atalig Manglona and Rota resident director for the Department of Public Safety Eusebio Mendiola Manglona.

Dean and Eusebio Manglona were among the seven charged in the Superior Court.

Park said Dean and Eusebio Manglona advised that while they and the rest of the Rota delegation were in Guam during the June 20-25 2018 time period, the delegation members all stayed in contact with one another using "WhatsApp" on their CNMI government-issued mobile devices.

Park said he also conducted interviews of Rota delegation members mayor Atalig, Evelyn Manglona, Josepha Barcinas Manglona, and Dennis James Camacho Mendiola.

Park said WhatsApp messages, images, audio, and video are sent and received through a cell phone internet connection and not through cellular data such as SMX text messages.

He said WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption and does not store messages once delivered, meaning WhatsApp communications can only be obtained from the mobile device itself.

Park said he viewed publicly accessible social media posting for the June 20-25 time frame which showed several members of the Rota delegation participating in the CNMI Republican rally held on Guam.

Among the numerous photos in Facebook, the special agent said, Rota officials can be seen during the rally, to include pictures of mayor Atalig, Torres, Arnold Palacios, and other Rota government officials.

Park said that last July 27, he obtained CNMI-Rota Department of Finance documents confirming that Mayor Atalig authorized disbursements in excess of $5,000 for the delegation's trip to Guam.

Park said payments came from the "Rota Imprest Fund," a CNMI-government account which is funded by the CNMI general fund.

Park said he reviewed the CNMI general fund account ledger that shows that during a one-year period ending on June 25, 2018, the CNMI general fund received benefits under a federal program in excess of $10,000.

Park said personal devices can store information for long periods of time.

He said this information can sometimes be recovered with forensics tools.

He said agents will obtain forensics images of the storage drive on the subject device.

Park said a forensic image captures all of the data on the hard drive or other media without the data being viewed and without changing the data in any way.

1st cleanup for 2019 gathers 600 lbs of trash

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PDM Promoters Inc.'s first monthly cleanup for 2019 collected 600 lbs of trash around Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, American Memorial Park Road, Beach Road, and its connecting alleys last Saturday morning.

The cleanup effort consisted of 20 members from the Saipan Awaodori Team and seven Kinpachi Restaurant staff from 9am up to around noon Saturday.

"Monthly volunteer cleanup has been a special project of PDM Promoters Inc. for many years," said PDM Promoters coordinator Sonia Siwa in a statement.

"One way of teaching the children that it is important to help keep their surrounding areas clean and beautiful and making the community better [is] through cleanup," she continued.

The volunteers did all the bush-cutting for the area, including the disposal of scattered cigarette butts, bottles, and cans accumulated all over the area. PDM Promoters chief executive officer and director Misako Kamata led the cleanup effort.

"We thank TSL Foundation and T- Galleria as our sponsors. They help us to provide all the cleaning supplies for the cleanup," Siwa continued.

She further expressed gratitude toward the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Department of Public Works Division of Solid Waste Management for waiving the fees associated with the disposal of the collected 600 lbs of trash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and Kinpachi Restaurant staff pose for a photo after their cleanup Saturday.

Saipan Awaodori Team members in action during last Saturday's cleanup.

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GCA distributes Yutu relief packages

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy and Grace Christian Ministries distributed relief packages for victims of Super Typhoon Yutu in the southside of Saipan last Saturday.

Grace Christian Academy and Grace Christian Ministries distributed relief packages for victims of Super Typhoon Yutu last weekend.

Before the Christmas break, the administration of Grace Christian Academy sent out a letter to the student body asking for donations of toiletries, diapers, and wipes to be distributed in various villages south of Saipan.

The response was overwhelming as students and parents responded with great generosity. On two separate occasions, many bags of toiletries (and diapers for those with small children) were given out in Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, and Koblerville. GCA hopes to continue reaching out to these villages. The administration would like to sincerely thank the student body, parents and the management and staff of Saipan Computer Services for their generous donations. ***(PR)***

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 8 am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/06/18 & 11/14/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- Announcement: Chairman's confirmation to the Health Care Board
- Status of Dr. Willis's confirmation to the Health Care Board
- Election of Officers

VII. Director's Report
- HCPLB Financial Report
- FSMB 2019 Annual Meeting on April 25-27, 2019 – Fort Worth, Texas

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Applications
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

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PUBLIC NOTICE

01/09/19
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2018/687	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court	Office of the Tinian Mayor	$86,250.00	($86,250.00)	N/A	$86,250.00
2018/689	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	$200,000.00	($200,000.00)	N/A	$200,000.00
2018/690	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	$200,000.00	($200,000.00)	N/A	$200,000.00
2018/691	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	Office of the Rota Mayor	$287,212.40	($287,212.40)	N/A	$287,212.40
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		**$773,462.40**	**($773,462.40)**		
2018	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of Modular Homes for Transitional Housing (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota)	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)		$773,462.40	N/A	N/A
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			**$773,462.40**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before February 11, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

Yaquinto's lawsuit, CUC's counterclaims dismissed

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the dismissal with prejudice the lawsuit filed by former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief financial officer Matthew J. Yaquinto against CUC, as well as CUC'S counterclaims against him.

Dismiss with prejudice means Yaquinto and CUC can no longer re-file their claims and counterclaims.

Manglona issued the dismissal order Monday after the parties agreed to dismiss all claims asserted by Yaquinto in his complaint, and all counterclaims brought by CUC against him.

The judge ordered that each party shall bear his or its own attorneys' fees and court costs.

Manglona vacated all pending deadlines and hearings. She directed the court's clerk to close the case.

CUC, through counsel James S. Sirok, and Yaquinto, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, notified the court about their agreement for dismissal.

Yaquinto filed in 2017 a discrimination lawsuit against CUC and five unnamed co-defendants over his termination as chief financial officer in May 2016 allegedly without cause and without the authority to do so.

CUC then filed a counterclaim against Yaquinto for alleged unauthorized overtime pay, unauthorized wire transfers, and unsupported moving expenses. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Bank of Hawaii donates $10K to NMC

The Bank of Hawaii presented a donation of $10,000 to Northern Marianas College to support the college's programs relating to workforce development and to help with the institution's recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu.

NMC sustained millions of dollars' worth of damage from Super Typhoon Yutu. The storm's strong winds and rain ripped roofs off buildings, devasted classrooms, destroyed hundreds of computers and lab equipment, and displaced many staff members from their offices.

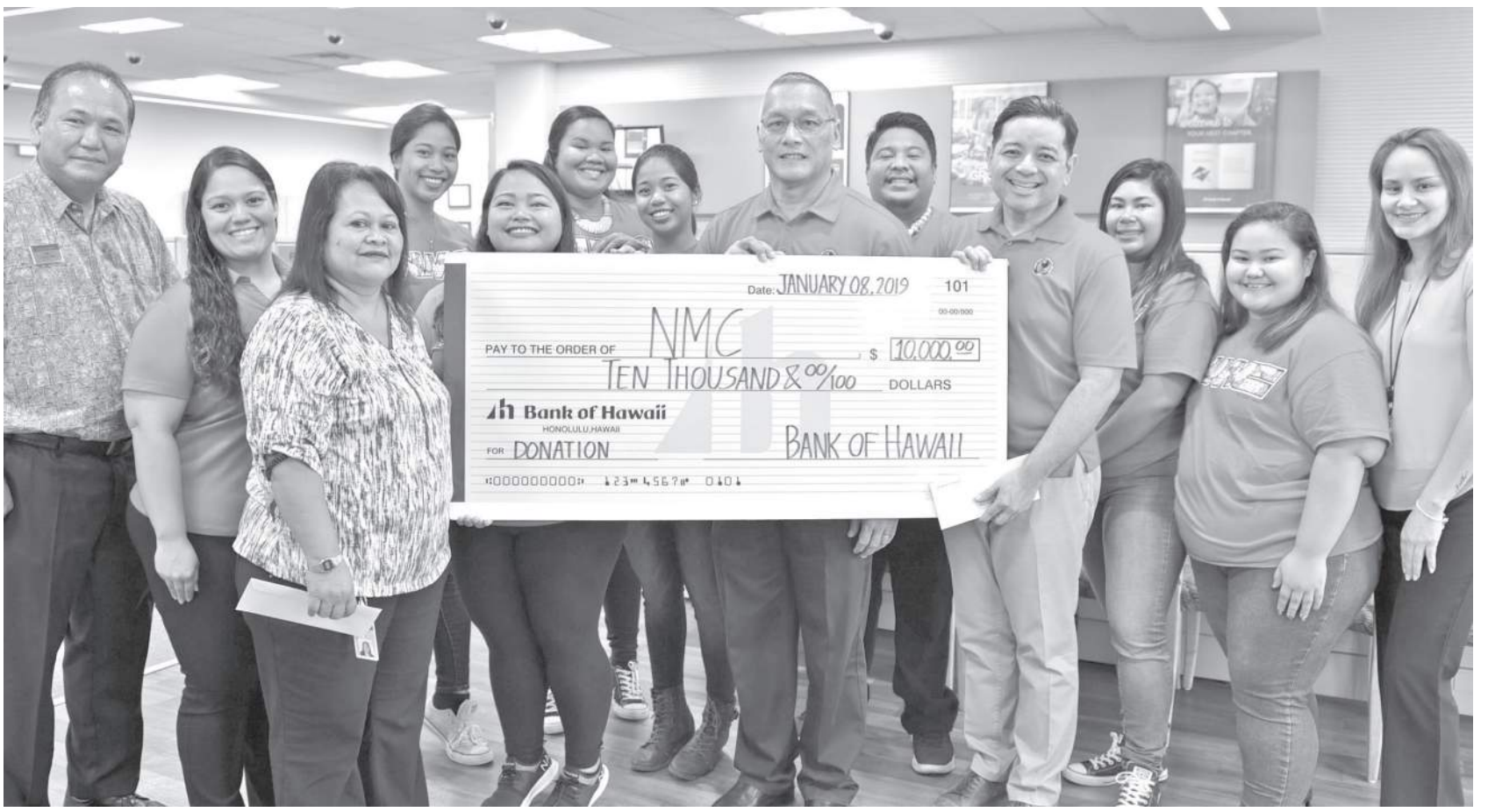
"Bank of Hawaii's donation goes a long way in helping NMC recover from the Super Typhoon Yutu," said Frankie Eliptico, NMC Interim President. "We are deeply appreciative of the Bank of Hawaii and the Bank of Hawaii Foundation for their contribution and help."

The college is currently holding classes at Saipan Southern High School. In February, college classes will resume at NMC's As Terlaje campus when the temporary classroom structures made available by FEMA are fully set up.

Bank of Hawaii had also donated over $30,000 in the last few years to help support the College's business and workforce development programs.

"For more than 35 years, Northern Marianas College has been graduating highly skilled and knowledgeable students, some of whom have become employees of the Bank of Hawaii," said Rose Sumor, Bank of Hawaii vice president and branch manager- Gualo Rai branch. "We want to continue supporting the college as they recover from Super Typhoon Yutu to ensure they continue to help train and educate the CNMI's students."

The presentation of the donation was made at the bank's Gualo Rai branch. The check was presented by Rose Sumor, BOH branch manager along with Joseph P. Fujihira, officer & assistant branch manager and Joanne H. Aldan, officer & assistant branch manager. The check was received by NMC BOR chair Charles Cepeda, interim president Frankie Eliptico, along with students and staff of NMC. ***(NMC)***



NMC

Bank of Hawaii donated $10,000 to Northern Marianas College. The donation check was presented by Rose Sumor, BOH branch manager (3rd from left), Joseph P. Fujihira, officer and assistant branch manager (1st from left), Joanne H. Aldan, officer and assistant branch manager (far right), and received by NMC BOR chair Charles Cepeda (center), NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico (4th from right), and students and staff of NMC.

NMC CREES awarded $725K research grant

Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education ServiceAgriculture Production Program was recently granted a $725,000 research grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to conduct vegetable and fruit variety performance trials in the CNMI.

The college had just announced yesterday that it received another $460,000 grant to study the commercialization of rabbitfish. This new grant focuses on looking at taking an in-depth look at different crops and how they would fare in the conditions present in the CNMI.

In 2016, a community needs assessment conducted by NMC-CREES found that the identification and research of crops that are suitable for the CNMI's environment was a high priority need. To do this, crop performance trials must be undertaken to determine crop suitability and viability as well as to expand and increase agricultural production of diverse, nutritious fruits and vegetables in the islands.

According to Solly Takai, NMC-CREES Agriculture Production Acting Program leader, the objectives of the research project include identifying current crop production systems and outputs in the CNMI, addressing challenges faced by farmers, and providing alternative farm practices that aid in preserving and protecting our local and natural resources, such as soils and water resources.

This research will be led by Takai, along with Arnold Route and Lawerence Duponcheel, program extension agents.

"We hope that this research will increase and enhance vegetable and fruit production in the CNMI. In the future we hope to see our local farmers and producers implementing some of the practices demonstrated," Takai said.

Research will focus on the performance of current crop varieties used by local farmers and producers as well as the testing of new and improved varieties which may have market potential.

Patricia Coleman, acting dean of NMC-CREES, stated that multidimensional approaches in sustainable farm management systems that mitigate against the effects of climate change and enhance the farming community's resilience will also be studied.

NMC-CREES provides technical assistance in the fields of agriculture, aquaculture, natural resources, community and youth development, health, and nutrition that is locally sustainable, environmentally safe, and economically feasible, in order to enhance the well-being and improve the quality of life of the people living in the CNMI.

The four major programs in CREES are Aquaculture & Natural Resources, Agriculture Production, Family, Community, and Youth Development, and Nutrition & Health. Funding is provided by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. ***(NMC)***

NMC

NMC-CREES' Agriculture Production Program was recently granted a $725,000 research grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to conduct vegetable and fruit variety performance trials in the CNMI. In this photo, NMC-CREES Extension agent Samson Palacios stands in a row of corn stalks.

Megan Winona Mendiola graduates from Washburn U

TOPEKA, KS—Washburn University is pleased to announce its graduating class of students in fall 2018. Washburn's commencement ceremony took place Dec. 14 in Lee Arena.

Megan Winona Mendiola of Tinian completed Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology Administration and is part of the graduating class.

"This class of students has accomplished great things while at Washburn and I know they will continue to succeed in their careers. I congratulate all of them on their hard work and dedication to success," said Dr. Jerry Farley, Washburn University president.

Founded in 1865, Washburn University is a public institution with more than 8,000 students and a thousand faculty and staff involved in more than 200 academic programs. Washburn's programs lead to certification, associate, bachelor, master's degree or doctor of nursing practice and juris doctor degrees.

In addition, Washburn Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech)—a nationally recognized innovator in career and technical education—is also part of the Washburn University family. The dedicated faculty and staff at Washburn Tech serve adult and high school students as well as business and industry participants with career specific training.

All programs are offered on either the 160-acre residential campus in the heart of Topeka, KS, or at Washburn Tech's campus on the West Side retail hub of the city. Washburn University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and many of the individual programs have additional accreditations. ***(PR)***

Surui Huang of Saipan named to dean's list at Lehigh U

BETHLEHEM, PA—Dean's List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Surui Huang of Saipan in the fall 2018 semester.

Huang

For more than 150 years, Lehigh University (lehigh.edu) has combined outstanding academic and learning opportunities with leadership in fostering innovative research. The institution is among the nation's most selective, highly ranked private research universities. Lehigh's four colleges—College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Economics, College of Education and the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science—provide opportunities to 7,000 students to discover and grow in a learning community that promotes interdisciplinary programs with real-world experience. ***(PR)***

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STOCK # COLOR DISCOUNT
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TRANSIT 150 XL LR JKA83059 OXFORD WHITE $4,000
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STOCK # COLOR DISCOUNT
SENTRA S JY250557 FRESH POWDER $3,000
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Korean tourism industry reps tour the Marianas

To reassure Korean travelers of the recovery of The Marianas following Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Asiana Airlines recently hosted a FAM tour for 13 key industry partners to see the destination for themselves.

Representatives from seven major agencies, DFS Korea, Asiana Airlines, and Micronesia Resort Inc., which owns Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort, arrived via Asiana on Dec. 20, 2018, the airline's first flight to Saipan from Incheon, Korea, since the storm.

The group started off their four-night stay at a welcome dinner with the MVA, hotel partners, and land operators at Kensington Hotel Saipan. The following day, agency needs for their respective Marianas tour packages were discussed, and a meeting was held with industry partners and land operators to discuss how quickly partners had or would be returning to normal activity, especially package sales.

"This FAM tour was critical in reassuring the Korean market that The Marianas is still beautiful and is back in business following Yutu, which had received extensive media coverage in Korea when it hit," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Throughout their visit, the travel representatives gained first-hand experience of our post-typhoon condition. They expressed surprise at how fast we have recovered. Each travel agency committed to delivering their impressions to potential travelers to The Marianas, and so we hope this helps the Korean market fully recover faster."

Tour agents and other tourism industry representatives from Korea visit Bird Island Lookout on Saipan on Dec. 23, 2018, as part of their familiarization tour of the Marianas. The tour was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Asiana Airlines to provide the participants first-hand experience in the destination.

MVA

The group conducted site inspections at PIC Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, and T Galleria by DFS. They also visited popular tourist sites, including Bird Island Lookout, Banzai Cliff, Korean Memorial, and Managaha Island.

Asiana Airlines provided complimentary round-trip air tickets for all participants. Kensington Hotel Saipan gave complimentary accommodation, including breakfast, and DFS included a discount coupon with its property inspection. ***(MVA)***

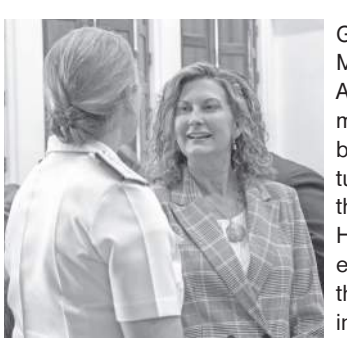
GUAM INAUGURATION

Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield attended Guam's gubernatorial and legislative inaugurations last Jan. 7. Their captions are embedded and can be found. From left, first gentleman of Guam Jeff Cook; Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero; Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas; and Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio smile for a photo during Guam's 13th gubernatorial inauguration at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao last Jan. 7. During the inauguration, Leon Guerrero and Tenorio took their oaths of office and delivered inaugural speeches among other ceremonial festivities.

U.S. NAVY PHOTOS BY ALANA CHARGUALAF

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, left, smiles for a photo with Sen. Tina Muna Barnes, speaker, 35th Guam Legislature, during Guam's 13th gubernatorial inauguration at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao LAST Jan. 7. During the inauguration, incoming Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio took their oaths of office and delivered inaugural speeches among other ceremonial festivities.

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, Guam Sen. Joe San Agustin and his wife Joanne take a photo opportunity before the 35th Guam Legislature inauguration ceremony at the Guam Congress Building in Hagatna Jan. 7. Chatfield attended the event and congratulated the new legislature upon their installment in office.



Guam Senator-elect Dr. Kelly Marsh-Taitano, speaks with Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, before the 35th Guam Legislature inauguration ceremony at the Guam Congress Building in Hagatna Jan. 7. Chatfield attended the event and congratulated the new legislature upon their installment in office.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 9, 2001

Teno shoots down 'shooting resort' bill

Amid concerns over safety of the islands to both residents and tourists, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday vetoed legislation seeking to ease tough gun control law in the CNMI to cater to so-called "shooting resorts" proposed by Korean investors. He said he could not compromise public safety over economic benefit of the measure despite assurances by proponents that use of these high-caliber weapons would be tightly guarded and restricted within the proposed resorts.

"Although the bill was aimed at boosting our ailing economy, this is not the type of development supported by our private sector or by our citizens," the governor said in his veto message. Mr. Tenorio emphasized his disapproval in allowing proliferation of firearms in the Commonwealth as he noted the strong opposition raised by various sectors in the community against HB 12-212.

RP, CNMI labor pact sealed

Newly-hired Saipan-bound Filipino workers will not be allowed entry in the Commonwealth unless they are able to show a certificate issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. This came following last month's signing of the amended version of the existing Philippines-CNMI Bilateral Labor Agreement in Manila. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio headed the Commonwealth delegation who met with Philippine officials led by Labor and Employment Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma and Undersecretary Felicisimo Joson. The CNMI delegation was accompanied by Philippine Consul to the Northern Marianas Julia C. Heidemann, who also joined the governor when he received the prestigious Presidential Banaag Awards from President Estrada in Malacanang Palace.

January 9, 2005

TSA: plans afoot to federalize Tinian airport

The Transportation Security Administration is developing a plan to federalize and prepare the Tinian airport for international flights. Plans are underway to staff the airport with federal screeners and equip it with a walk-through metal detector and a baggage X-ray unit, among other security machines, said interim TSA-Saipan federal security director Stanford Miyamoto. Once the plan is in place, the local TSA office will submit it to its Washington, D.C. headquarters for approval and processing, Miyamoto said. While he declined to give a specific time frame for the process, Miyamoto said the federal agency will try to complete the airport federalization "as soon as possible."

PSS official hopes no more repeat of fiscal problem

Education commissioner Rita Hocog Inos hopes there will be no repeat of the fiscal crisis that threatened to shutdown the Commonwealth's public school system this week. Meeting with public school principals at the PREL Service Center at the Marianas High School Friday, Inos said she was happy that the government was able to avert the shutdown but at the same time decried being nearly forced into the situation. Inos also noted that, if PSS was not able to secure the funds Friday, it would have no recourse but to cancel the resumption of classes set for tomorrow, Jan. 11. Inos also appealed to the principals to be more understanding as she reiterated to them their roles are very vital in the delivery of services to their students.

January 9, 2006

'NMC to continue with improvements in 2006'

The Northern Marianas College will continue to make improvements for 2006, according to the New Year message of college president Tony Y. Deleon Guerrero. Deleon Guerrero said that, although the college was confronted with many challenges last year, it remains steadfast in its service to the community.

Through collaboration, cooperation, and institutional-wide commitment to continuous improvement, he said NMC was able to resolve major problems. "We continue to make significant institutional improvements," he added. Deleon Guerrero also expressed appreciation and gratitude to all NMC employees, the Board of Regents, and the NMC Foundation members for their individual contributions and support throughout 2005.

2005 user fee total plunges

The Customs Division's user fee collections from Saipan garment factories jumped back over the $2 million mark in December 2005, netting the CNMI $24.1 in collections for calendar year 2005. Compared with 2004 collections, however, the $24 million collected represents a drop of 21.5 percent. Comparing collections from the factories, the 2005 totals are down 38.6 percent against collections in 2000. Price point competition and the elimination of quota restrictions upon member countries of the World Trade Organization cost the CNMI approximately $44.8 million in user fee collections alone since 2000.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Head Start/Early Head Start need volunteers

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program is actively seeking volunteers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to serve as community representatives for the SY 2018-2019 Head Start Policy Council.

Qualification requirements:

Community representatives from the local community who are familiar with resources and services for low-income children and families; cannot be an employee or immediate relative of an employee for the CNMI Public School System; and may not have already served five terms on the Head Start Policy Council.

The deadline for interest is Jan. 25, 2019. Interested community members should email a brief letter of interest and resume to hsehs@cnmipss.org. The election of Community Representatives will be held during the January meeting of the Head Start Policy Council.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jolene Sablan at jolene.sablan@cnmipss.org or call 323-7446/664-3761. ***(PR)***

Survivors & caregivers support meeting tomorrow

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Jan. 10, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency, Chamolinian Room.

To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Great Stories Club continues at JKPL

Calling all teens! The Great Stories Club is restarting after Super Typhoon Yutu. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, Jan. 19, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.

If interested, sign up online here (https://goo.gl/forms/IYLvrMVdjwKe6hnW2), or visit the library to sign up! This month, we will be discussing the book March: Book 3 by Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell and John Lewis—this is a wonderful graphic novel about the Civil Rights movement.

Unlike the previous book club sessions, effective in January, the Great Stories Club will meet once per month, after which meeting the participants will be able to keep the book. Food will be provided, and participants will receive an additional fun prize! If you or someone you know is interested —please sign up with the above link or in the library! We look forward to seeing you there!

Programs and activities are sponsored by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and are made possible by IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-18-0052-18 and IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-01-18-0058-18. In addition, the Great Stories Club grant is sponsored through the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu and Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

Tween/Teen/Adult January activities at JKPL

It's January and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has lots of fun activities for tweens, teens, and adults. Please see below:

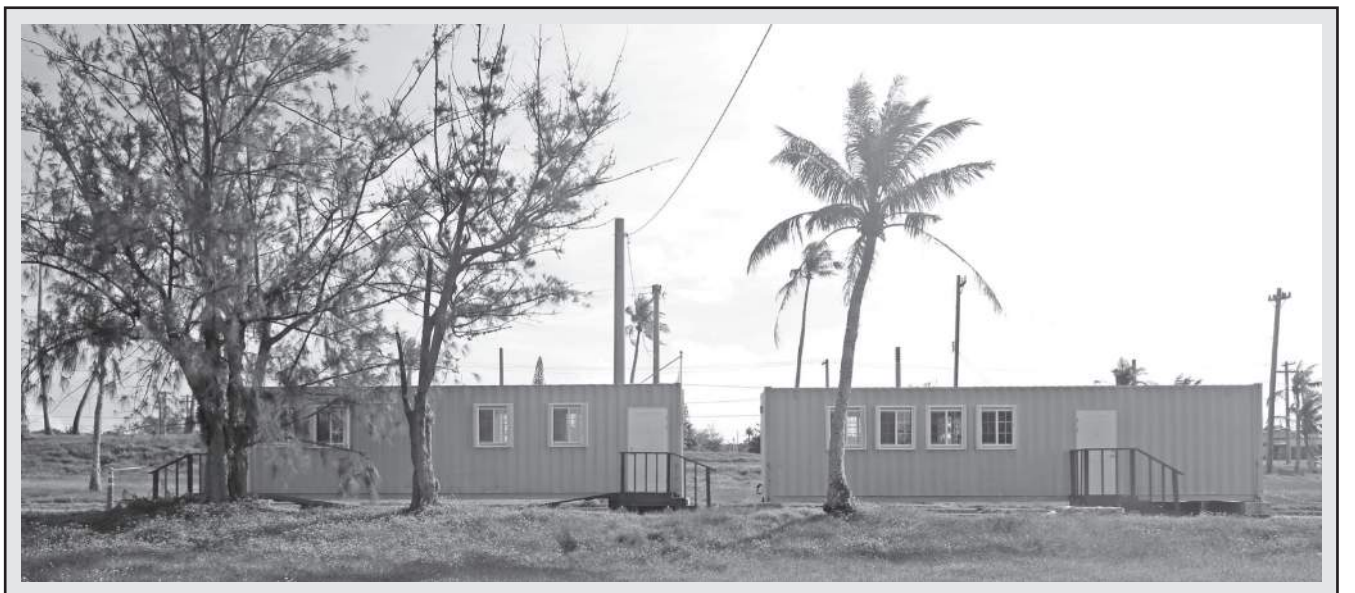
■ Friday, Jan. 11, all month – We are releasing our NEW Programs in a Bag! These are simple crafts or DIYs that you can check out, bring home, and return when you have completed the craft. These bags are available to patrons 10 and up, and have a 1-week checkout period. Library card required. The bags will change each month – this month's activity is DIY Charger Cord decorating! Programs in a Bag will be released on Jan. 11 and will be available to check out all month.

■ Saturday, Jan. 19, 12:30pm-2:30pm–The Great Stories Club is continuing on with March: Book 3 by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. This is a wonderful graphic novel about the Civil Rights movement. The book club will meet once this month, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm, after which the participants will be able to keep the book and receive a fun prize! If interested, please sign up online at https://goo.gl/forms/xJvXHxBxZbkyEEYs2 or in the library! Please note that the book club is for participants ages 13-18. Missed out on January's book club? Sign up for the February book club!

■ Saturday, Jan/ 26, 1pm-2pm – Are you in grades 4th-12th? Do you like ice cream? If you answered YES to either of these questions, sign up for the Secret Science of Ice Cream! This is a fun program that will explore the science of how ice cream is made. We will learn about ice cream, make our own ice cream, then eat it! Registration is required, as well as a library card clear of fines. Children ages 12 and under MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Limited seating – sign up today at the Reference desk in the library!

Programs and activities are sponsored by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and are made possible by IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-18-0052-18 and IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-01-18-0058-18. In addition, the Great Stories Club grant is sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We hope you will join us for these fun-filled events in January! For more information, call the library at (670) 235-7323/22 and/or pick up an events calendar, located at the front desk in the library. For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu and Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***



CONSERVATION PROJECT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Guam Forest Enhancement Project of the U.S. Marine Corps is starting to take shape on Naval Base Guam Telecommunications Station with the arrival of containers and equipment to be part of the new Native Plant Nursery set to open this year. The project will include native plant seed collection, salvage, storage and nursery propagation for use in future conservation projects.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-002-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January, 22 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Tinian International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-003-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 22, 2019,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-004-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 22, 2019,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The economy looks great. Will politics mess it up?

Stocks contribute to long-term financial health but can't protect against heart attacks, so let's not obsess over the impact of each market gyration on our 401(k) retirement accounts. Agreed? A more productive focus is to look at the sensational rate of job growth across the economy and consider who presents the greater risk to stable growth: the mercurial Republican president or politically ascendant Democrats?

Through 2018 business owners and consumers delivered continued bursts of momentum to the economy by investing and spending. It really was a good year, with economic growth above 3 percent and lots of hiring. In December, the government reported Friday, employers added 312,000 jobs, far more than analysts expected. An average of 220,000 jobs were added each month last year, the best performance since 2015, but an especially sound number given the already tight labor market.

The overall unemployment rate is below 4 percent, at a record low for Hispanics and near a record low for African-Americans. Just about anyone who wants to work can find a job. "If we're not right at full employment, we're very close to that," Atlanta Federal Reserve President Raphael Bostic said Friday, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Some wags are waiting for the economy to slow down, as if recession is inevitably around the corner. Maybe so, maybe not. So much of economic growth, especially hiring and business investment, is a reflection of positive expectations and momentum. Employers who expect the good times to continue will hire workers. The more jobs available, the greater the competition for skilled workers, which inevitably leads to wage increases and more spending. That virtuous cycle is playing out right now: Average hourly earnings are up 3.2 percent over the past year, the highest increase since 2008.

Business sentiment picked up noticeably with the election of President Donald Trump. That continued as the administration cut the regulatory burden on industry and worked with Republicans in Congress to pass a tax reform package that reduced corporate and personal rates and incentivized investment. If the president had taken credit and then gotten out of the way, the economy — and the markets — would look even perkier. But no, Trump is an undisciplined leader whose unforced errors are creating headaches for businesses and Wall Street.

Trump's goading efforts to start a trade war with China have become a drag on the U.S. economy. Agriculture exports from Illinois and other farm states have been hit hard. Apple also is reporting a China-related sales slowdown, due to a weakened economy there but also due to trade tension. In Washington, Trump picked a pointless fight over the future path of interest rates with Fed chief Jerome Powell. If Trump could stay focused on the big picture (job growth) and stop rattling cages, the markets probably would keep better balance and the recession wags would have less to fear.

Inevitably, politics will intersect with the economy as

See ECONOMY on Next Page

TRUMP SAID HE WOULD RUN GOVERNMENT LIKE A BUSINESS.
SHUTTING DOWN IS GOOD BUSINESS?
GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
2019 LAS VEGAS SUN
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MIKE SMITH

Beyond the fight over the wall, the human cost mounts

By TAYLOR BATTEN
The Charlotte Observer

All the focus on immigration lately has been around the standoff between President Trump and Democrats over a border wall, and the partial government shutdown that dispute has spawned.

That's understandable, and it's unconscionable that Trump would use as pawns thousands of employees in federal departments that have nothing to do with immigration or homeland security.

But the United States faces fundamental issues around immigration policy that go far beyond whether a wall is built along part of the border with Mexico. Namely, that our policy is out of date and our enforcement of it is inhumane, and increasingly so. Americans can legitimately disagree over what rules should govern immigration into the country. But the current system is heartless.

Consider just a few recent examples:

■ Hania Aguilar, 13, was kidnapped outside her home in Lumberton, N.C., on Nov. 5. Her body was found weeks later several miles away in a body of water near a rural road.

Her funeral was Dec. 8, but at least one important person wasn't there: her father. He was stuck in Guatemala, denied a temporary visa that would have allowed him to come to North Carolina to say goodbye to his daughter. U.S. officials worried Noe Aguilar would not return to Guatemala, and a State Department spokeswoman said officials were merely "ensuring the integrity and security of our country's borders."

Aguilar had no negative immigration history and had no intention of staying in the U.S. He simply wanted to kiss his daughter goodbye, his lawyer said.

■ Samuel Oliver-Bruno came to the U.S. in 1994. He was an upstanding N.C. resident, caring for his wife who suffers from lupus and has had heart surgery. For all of 2018, he lived in the basement of his Durham church, a sanctuary from deportation. Then, immigration officials entrapped him, inviting him to their offices on Nov. 23 to take the next step toward deferred deportation. When he arrived, they tackled him and arrested him. He was quickly deported, leaving his sick wife and U.S.-citizen son.

■ An 8-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl died while in Customs and Border Patrol custody last month.

My sister-in-law, Melissa Johns, recently spent a week at the border through the Immigration Justice Campaign helping women seeking asylum in the U.S. These women had legitimate claims but didn't know how to effectively present their cases. Without help from volunteer lawyers, she says, "most would have been unfairly sent back to horrible dangers."

She wrote to family and friends, and in an op-ed Monday in USA Today, about her experience at the detention center that housed 2,400 women and children seeking asylum. She recounted horrific stories of women she met: One whose husband was killed after missing one monthly "rent" payment to the MS13 gang. One who, after she protested against the Nicaraguan government, had her life threatened by police. One who had been beaten and raped by her husband weekly for a decade.

"Each migrant I spoke with had a legitimate asylum claim, but not one articulated her claim in a way that would meet the legal standards," Johns said.

"The vagaries of luck on who gets support and who doesn't haunt me. And the barriers the Trump administration is placing between asylum seekers and their rights under U.S. and international law are awful."

Advocacy groups and volunteers helping these asylum seekers, she says, "make the difference between life and death for the women, men and children they serve."

America's immigration system has been broken for years and both parties have failed to fix it. A resolution of the shutdown will be only the beginning of a much more challenging task.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

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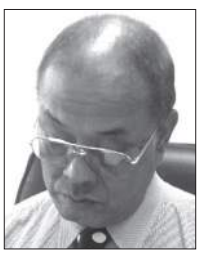

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Gi 1993 ta sañgane i US Congress na una para todu ayudun fondu para Marianas pot nahuñg salape`ta para nesessidat-ta siha.

Namagof na annunsiu lau dididi` taftaf ta banidosuye i asuntu sin ta asegura na na fitme pisun ekonomia para u sustene todu gastu dispues.

■■■

Guihe na tiempu metgut inbetsionistan (investors) Japones `nai man-halum guine yan fiñkas niha. I fuetsan salape` niha umadelanta dañkulu i aduanan iya Marianas.

Dispues, sige man-hanau `nai madiñgu iya Marianas. Haf` na insuttu ginen hita umafuetsas hinanau niha?

Ta sufa` i mattiñgan maliñgun fondu `nai ha lagnus $7 biyon pesus gi salape` niha ni ginen lumililiku` gi ekonomian i tanu`. Dañkulu na maliñgu!

■■■

`In hassu na ensegidas hana' para setbisiun Japan Airlines, mabende Hotel Nikko yan otru siha man-dañkulu na bisnis niha guine ya man-hanau? Guaha sineda`ta tahguen maliñgun $7 biyon pesus?

Dañkulu na kantida ni hagas patte gi ma-apasen setbisiun publiku guine. U biragueˋ mohon Japon tatte?

Man-tagfena sikosta yan heñiun banida ni binalutan manadan insuttu kontra inbetsionistas Japones. Pinilota na man-siña hit gi hita namaisa `nai i katsu ginen haf` pinegan niha guine na fiñkas. Che`chu` muron!

■■■

Na`mamahlau para ta insutta fiet na gachoñgta deste antes de geran dos. Lau masiente na no siakassu hit gi animun niha ayudu umadelanta i pisun ekonomia guine. Pot manbailai hit un` ratu yan Chinu esta para ta tulaika gachoñg-ta.

Adahe $7 biyon na fondun Japones maliñgu ginen este na mañan miron! Hita i man-dada`da` ginen tailayen heñiun miron. Man-malefa hamyu na Japon nasion ni mina` dos gi mas mifuetsa ekonomiaña gi enteru elmundo?

Haf` ekonomia-ta fuera de man-epineduñg? Kulan bisiu i tayamag i fitme na pisu pot heñiun miron `sino dotmelon pat todu i dos.

■■■

■ Maseha mirespetu i Japones ha tuñguˋ haf` asuntoña. Gigon mattu gi fotmat na inadiñgan ti umahñau ninaˋe hau ni sentimentoña seriosamente sin ditension. Man-amtau na tautague gi interes haf` mauleg gi hilu` dignu na disposision para i tanu` niha ni marepresesenta.

■ Guaha mohon kampu para uma-adelanta suetdun 15-mit na empleau ni man-gatdun gi facheˋ sisonyan pagamientun popble? Mauleg tafaisen i tropan I Deni` haf` planun niha dispues de maliñgu $7 biyon na salapeˋ Japones. PInaloˋpu ni maribahan ekonomia pot iran pagyu. Asuntun kualidat linala` familia! Na ti este primera obligasion miyu?

■ Ginen diskuidun miyu na mangaige este na kantidan empleau gi estau seriosu na pinepble yan chinatsaga pot suetdun niha. Haf `in petsisige para `in satba inafuetsas miyu kontra 15-mit na empleau?

■ Konsidera pot un` ratu haf` pinadesen niha `an man-halum gi tenda pot nesessidat familia. Puru sakrifisiun uttimu ninaˋ siña para u asegura na nahuñg mantension para i tetehnan na dos semana. Inipus na sapet pot diskuidun miyu!

■ Mañguentus pot ekonomia kulan mohon nuebu na konseptu lau memegaiña ti kumomprende i asuntu. Planu este ha nesessita pot seriosu i asuntu ni umembrasa linala` linahyan. Adelantu solu siña humatsa kualidat linala` niha. Diskuidun miyu pumega siha gi sisonyan miserapble na pinepble!

■ Diariu eksisiun kuttura. Pues haf` masasañgan pot maliñgun modun linala`ta? I kuttura matulalaika. Ayu ta embrasa gi otru i umafagcha` yan haf` gaige giya hita. Atan, saˋ gagaige haˋ i mapagahes gi lañget!

■ Guaha magahet dañkulu na tinilaika gi linala`ta gi halum 40 añus na tiempu? Haf` sinedaˋ miyu yan kau siña `innaˋe tautauta kabales na infotmasion? Propiu ta pega kalulot-ta gi haf` `in sasañgan na finaˋ espantu!

■ Gi minañgau pulan antes man-epañglau ham gi halum tanu` kantun tasi para sentadan familia. Tat mas mames na sensin ke mafanana`an pañglau tunas. Hu chage lokue` tininun umañg giya Tagpochau. Diberas na mantikan abune ni hu sopas yan hinegsa`.

■ Ha rikohe i amiguhu buyadan guihan ni tinipagña dispues de dos oras. Hana`e-yu` kelaguen-hu `nos kuantos medianu na taraketiyun. Ha pega i pumalu gi halum ice chest ya ha kontinua umetupag. Gi lemlem tautau kantida kinine`ña na hana`e-yu` ta`lu dididi patteg-hu. Suette!

■ Gi mapus na Dameñgo uttimu na finattun i Niñu gi gima`ta siha. Antes de bai dimu man-ñgiñge` hu hassu pinadesen Santa Marian yan San Jose `nai ni un` guma sumede manhalum para u madiskatga i lahen Yuus. Tailaye na heñiu gi ti mafañañagu na Lahen Yuus.

■ Sumen na` pinite na i liyañg ga`ga` `nai mafañagu i Niñu Jesus. Sin ditension, klaru na lahen Yuus i mafañagu `nai manina un` putionˋ ni todu lumi`e gi enteru elmundu. Tat ti mumuebague` para u aligau i rai man-rai siha.

■ Un` attista ha mente tinilaikan "kustumbren sune" guatu gi salape`. Haf` kustumbren sune? Ya otru `aggun haya mangai kustumbre lokue`? Kau i puntu pot tinilaikan kutturan gualu guatu gi kepblen moseria? ###

Women take Congress, misogynists lash out

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

Just over a year ago, a writer named Kristen Roupenian published a short story in the New Yorker called "Cat Person." It chronicled a brief, mediocre romance. At first, it was hard to say what made the story newsworthy.

Still, just as #MeToo was taking off, "Cat Person" became history's first viral short story. Something in Roupenian's tale of Robert and Margot's relationship — testy, opportunistic — felt familiar. And then there was the word mild Robert uses at their breakup, when he finally believes he has nothing left to lose: "Whore."

"Cat Person" laid out the ways men can pretend to tolerance of and even affection for women while also seething with sexist resentment of their power.

The "Cat Person" parable has been germane this past week. As the new Congress convenes, with a record 102 women taking office, a crew of men in right-wing media and politics seems to believe they've tolerated this whole women-in-power exercise for too long.

They've been patient. They've been gallant. They praised Ivanka Trump's grace. They hat-tipped Sen. Susan Collins for helping put brother Brett Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court. They sat for the #MeToo tedium.

But now, like Robert, they've had enough.

On Thursday night, shortly after being sworn in, freshman Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) boasted that the new Democratic House majority would "go in there and impeach" Trump, whom she called by a commonplace vulgarism beloved of Norman Mailer and Samuel L. Jackson. She landed the line to perfection, and her supporters loved it.

Understandably anxious about impeachment, Republicans decried Tlaib. They pretended not to mind her political zeal, though; it was her coarseness they took umbrage at. For a woman of color, and one of the first two Muslim women in Congress, using a bad word is evidently criminal unseemliness. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, from Bakersfield, huffed and puffed about how indecorous Tlaib had been and was essentially laughed off the dais by people reminding him of Trump's long record of barnyarding it up.

As of this writing, Tlaib has not apologized for her impeachment plan — or her vocabulary.

Next on the Women to Hate List is — shocker — Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She's the newly minted congresswoman from New York's 14th District and, hoo boy, does she make bitter conservatives bitterer.

Having calculated that savaging House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wasn't firing up the he-man pitchfork crowd as much as they had hoped, conservatives are now trying to smear Ocasio-Cortez as young, dangerous, naive, stylish and a good dancer. They also seem unaccountably panicked that she was once known as Sandy.

To many of the attacks, Ocasio-Cortez has issued Twitter clapbacks that deftly surface the barely concealed sexism of her detractors. When conservatives last week tried to make hay out of a dance video she made in college, she made another dance video, chiding the GOP as prigs who hate women who dance.

To a prominent right-wing troll looking to get a rise out of her, she earlier tweeted, "Like catcalling, I don't owe a response to unsolicited requests from men with bad intentions. And also like catcalling, for some reason they feel entitled to one."

Catcallers and anti-dancing scolds are two sides of the age-old misogyny coin. What they're saying to her, as Ocasio-Cortez well knows, is that she's either frigid and won't respond to their catcalls or a "whore" because she dances too much.

Ocasio-Cortez's responses make her detractors even more furious; no one likes to have his ugly misogyny brought to light. When Ocasio-Cortez, in white, stood to vote for Pelosi as House speaker, Republicans broke all precedent and booed her.

"Don't hate me cause you ain't me, fellas," Ocasio-Cortez tweeted. By turning up the volume on the Republicans' terrified sexism, as a digital native does best, she's made quick work of her haters.

By contrast, the latest attacks on Pelosi are listless. After seven years of trying to stir up hatred for the distinguished representative from San Francisco, conservatives seem to be running out of steam.

During Pelosi's swearing-in as the first person to return to the speakership since 1955, and the first and only Italian American and first and only woman to hold the post, Pelosi found President Trump attempting to steal her thunder by staging a hasty press briefing. Trump's non-briefing was so desperate-seeming it only made Pelosi's swearing-in more formidable — and existentially threatening to the president.

Finally, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) announced Monday that she's entering the 2020 race for president, and she also got some hazing from Trump, who often refers to Warren by a racist nickname.

Almost the second some pundits wondered ridiculously whether affable Warren is "likable" enough — c'mon, fellas, wouldja want to have a beer with her at a strip club? — "likability" was flagged as a moronically sexist metric.

Is the girl nice? Does she use salty language? Does she dance? Does she refuse to smile and flirt when you hoot at her?

These moth-eaten virgin-whore tropes have become self-satirizing. If you think misogyny has faded since "Mad Men" days, you're wrong. In fact, as women pack the halls of power, it seems more virulent than ever, as conservatives convulse in fear at losing their old rubrics of control. They lash out more than Don Draper ever did.

But rather than deafen themselves to the primitive hatred beneath the surface of "likability" and anti-dance discourse, figures like Ocasio-Cortez send up the subtext, just as Roupenian did in "Cat Person."

Demeaning dancing and texting the word "whore" to a woman who scares you is, when you think about it, pretty laughable. And to have the dynamic laid bare is almost a relief.

No wonder Pelosi is running the House, Warren is running for president, Tlaib is calling it as she sees it, and Ocasio-Cortez is dancing. Their enemies are losing strength, while they're gaining it.

ECONOMY

From Page 10

the Democratic-controlled House sets its priorities and the 2020 presidential primaries approach. Democrats opposed tax reform and deregulation. What do Dems support? Will they embrace or reject an economy with 3.9 percent unemployment?

We hope Republicans and Democrats, from the president to newly seated members of Congress, recognize what's at stake: the future prosperity of millions of working Americans.

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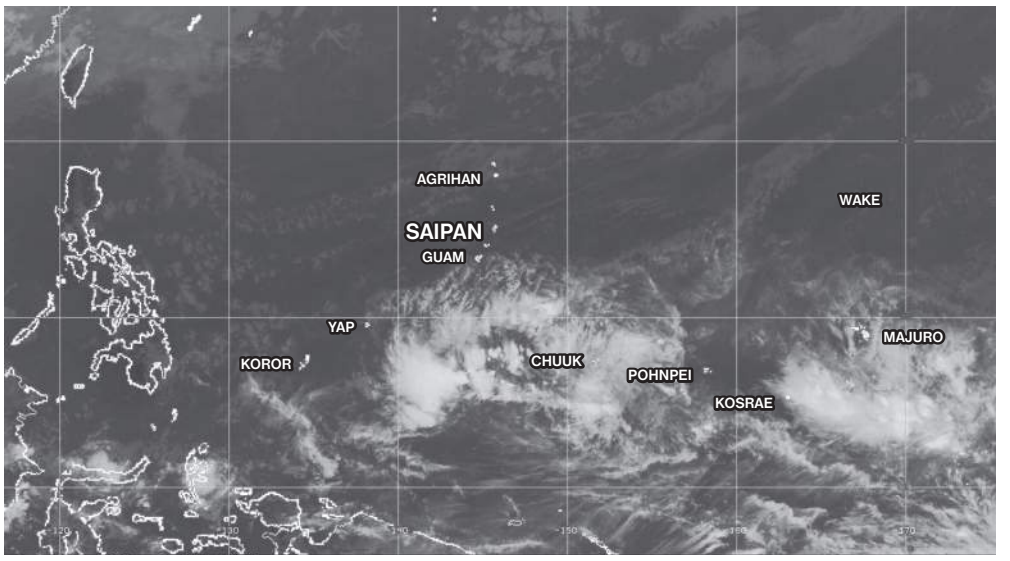
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:04 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No significant changes were made to the forecast. Today looks to be mainly dry with increasing but still pleasant dew points. Moisture increases a bit for Wednesday and Thursday, so there could be a slightly better chance of showers, but still not bad of a forecast. For later Friday into the weekend, we are still watching a disturbance, what are the remnants of Tropical Depression 01W. All of the guidance brings this disturbance south of Guam over the weekend. There is still some uncertainty as to whether it is along 10N, south of 10N and just how strong it is. Most of the guidance is south of 10N. The GFS is more developed than the ECMWF. If it is further south then there may not be scattered showers at all for Tinian and Saipan. It it is further north then there would be. So for now, did not change that portion of the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	82° / 77°
Yap	Showers	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 16°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
London	Partly Cloudy	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	65° / 49°
Manila	Sunny	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Miami	Cloudy	78° / 54°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	45° / 35°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 34°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 34°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	54° / 34°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	55° / 32°
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 23°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	48° / 34°
Washington, DC	Windy	44° / 30°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.23
10:41 AM	LOW TIDE	1.85
4:21 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.17
8:53 PM	LOW TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:45 AM	8:39 PM	-
Thursday	9:35 AM	9:27 PM	-
Friday	10:14 AM	10:15 PM	-
Saturday	10:52 AM	11:02 PM	-
Sunday	11:29 AM	11:50 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U86486	10:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183 via GUM	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

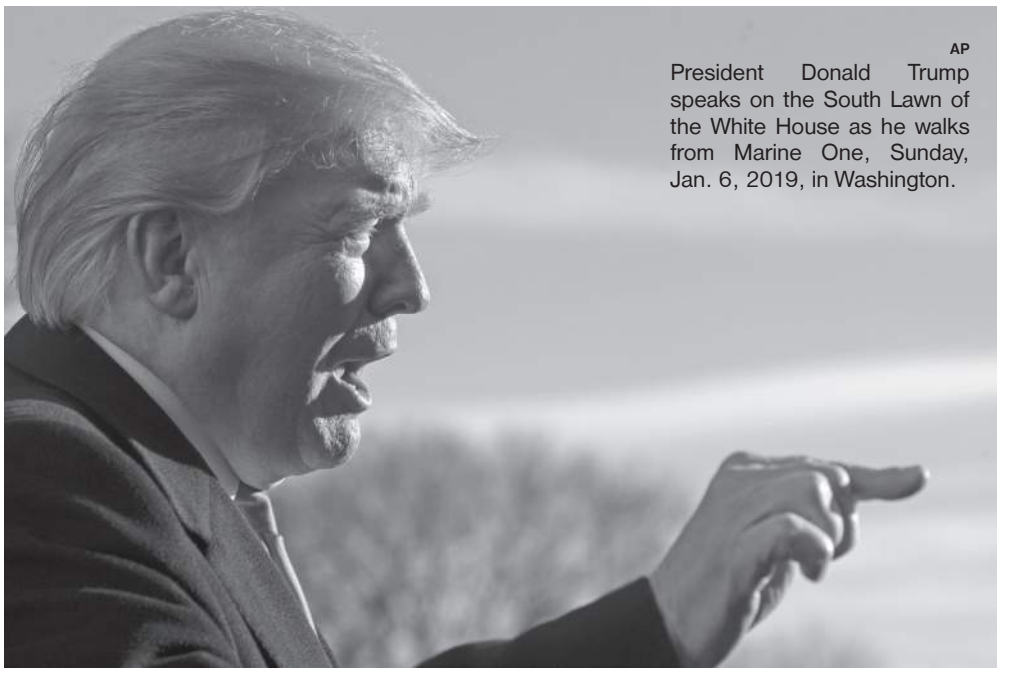
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Trump heads to TV, border as fed workers face paycheck sting

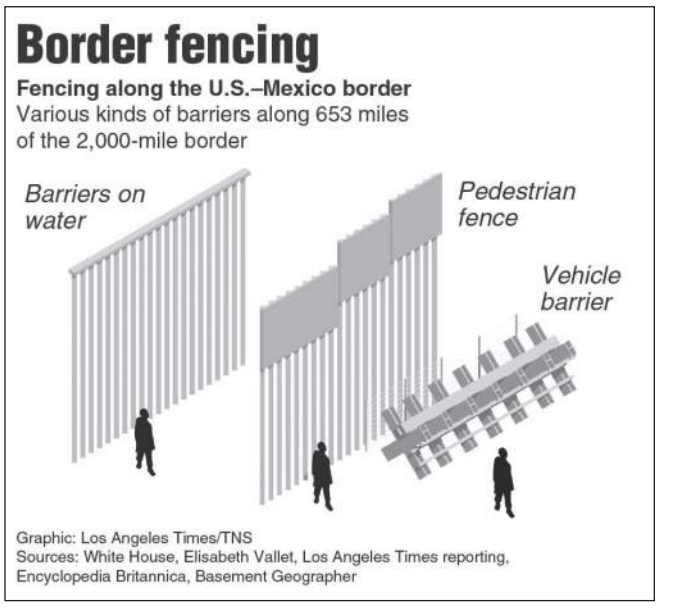
WASHINGTON (AP)—With no breakthrough in sight, President Donald Trump will argue his case to the nation Tuesday night that a "crisis" at the U.S.-Mexico border requires the long and invulnerable wall he's demanding before ending the partial government shutdown. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers face missed paychecks Friday as the shutdown drags through a third week.

Trump's Oval Office speech—his first as president—will be followed by his visit Thursday to the southern border to highlight his demand for a barrier. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted that he will use the visit to "meet with those on the front lines of the national security and humanitarian crisis."



AP

President Donald Trump speaks on the South Lawn of the White House as he walks from Marine One, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Washington.


Border fencing
Fencing along the U.S.–Mexico border
Various kinds of barriers along 653 miles of the 2,000-mile border
Barriers on water
Pedestrian fence
Vehicle barrier
Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS
Sources: White House, Elisabeth Vallet, Los Angeles Times reporting, Encyclopedia Britannica, Basement Geographer

The administration is also at least talking about the idea of declaring a national emergency to allow Trump to move forward on the wall without Congress approving the $5.6 billion he wants. Vice President Mike Pence said the White House counsel's office is looking at the idea. Such a move would certainly draw legal challenges, and Trump—who told lawmakers he would be willing to keep the government closed for months or ever years—has said he would like to continue negotiations for now.

Trump's prime-time address will be carried live by ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox Broadcasting, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, MSNBC and NBC.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer called on the networks to give Democrats a chance to respond. "Now that the television networks have decided to air the President's address, which if his past statements are any indication will be full of malice and misinformation, Democrats must immediately be given equal airtime," they wrote in a joint statement released Monday night.

As Trump's speech and border visit were announced, newly empowered House Democrats—and at least a few Republican senators—stepped up pressure on GOP lawmakers to reopen the government without giving in to the president's demands The closure, which has lasted 17 days, is already the second-longest in history and would become the longest this weekend.

Leaning on Senate Republicans, some of whom are growing anxious about the impact of the shutdown, Pelosi said the House would begin passing individual bills this week that would reopen federal agencies, starting with the Treasury Department to ensure Americans receive their tax refunds .

The White House moved to pre-empt the Democrats, telling reporters Monday that tax refunds would be paid despite the shutdown. That shutdown exemption would break from the practice of earlier administrations and could be challenged.

"There is an indefinite appropriation to pay tax refunds. As a result ... the refunds will go out as normal," said Russell Vought, acting director of the White House budget office.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Amazon emerges as most valuable US firm amid market turmoil

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Amazon has eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly traded company in the U.S. as a see-sawing stock market continues to reshuffle corporate America's pecking order. The shift occurred Monday after Amazon's shares rose 3 percent to close at $1,629.51 and lifted the e-commerce leader's market value to $797 billion. Meanwhile, Microsoft's stock edged up by less than 1 percent to finish at $102.06, leaving the computer software maker's value at $784 billion. It marks the first time Amazon has held the top spot and ends Microsoft's brief return to the pinnacle after it surpassed Apple in late November . The repositioning has been triggered by mounting concerns that the Trump administration's trade war with China and rising interest rates will bog down the worldwide economy. If that were to happen, it's likely to slow the growth of companies in technology and other industries that generate a substantial chunk of their revenue outside the U.S. That's one reason most technology stocks are well off their peaks. Amazon, for instance, remains 21 percent below its high reached in September when the company's stock value stood above $1 trillion.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announces his departure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jim Yong Kim, the president of the World Bank, announced Monday he is resigning at the end of January. Kim's unexpected departure three years before his term was set to expire is likely to set off a fierce battle between the Trump administration and other countries who have complained about the influence the United States exerts over the World Bank. In a letter to bank staff, Kim said that he has long believed that the key to bridging the gap between the massive financing needs of developing countries and the amount of support available was to work with the private sector. "I have therefore decided that it's time for me to take on new challenges and fully focus my efforts on leveraging private finance for the benefit of people around the work," Kim said in his note to staff. Kim's departure will give President Donald Trump the opportunity to nominate his own choice to fill the World Bank post. The 189-nation World Bank is the largest government source for development funding, providing low-cost loans for projects around the world.

Administration: Gov t shutdown won't delay tax refunds

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers who are owed refunds will be paid on time, despite the government shutdown that has closed many federal agencies, a Trump administration official said Monday as concern mounted over the risk that the payments could be delayed.

The acting director of the White House budget office, Russell Vought, said customary rules will be changed to make the payments possible. He told reporters that an "indefinite appropriation" was available for the refunds, which would go out as normal.

As it dragged through a third week, the partial government shutdown could not have come at a worse time for the Internal Revenue Service. Tax-filing season officially begins Jan. 28, and while those who owe Uncle Sam will still have to pay up by April 15, people who are due to receive money back have worried about whether the closure could postpone their payments.

About three-quarters of taxpayers receive annual refunds, giving them an incentive to file their returns early. Many lower-income people count on refunds as their biggest cash infusion of the year.

The IRS said late Monday that it will recall a large number of furloughed employees to process returns. They will probably work without pay. Under the previous rules, hundreds of billions of dollars in refunds could be delayed because funding would not be available.

Some experts question whether the Trump administration has the legal authority to reverse those earlier policies to allow the government to issue refunds during a shutdown. Vought framed the move as part of President Donald Trump's goal to make the shutdown "as painless as possible."

The administration's announcement came as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi signaled her intention to begin passing individual bills to reopen federal agencies in the coming days, starting with the Treasury Department, which includes the IRS, to ensure Americans receive their refunds.

Some Senate Republicans have been growing increasingly anxious about the extended shutdown and could support such legislation from the Democratic-led House.

With the White House announcement on refunds, "They're reversing a longstanding legal position," said Howard Gleckman, senior fellow and tax expert at the Urban Institute. But, he added, "Who's going to sue? It would be hard to show damages. ... So they might be able to get away with it."

In 2011, the chief counsel at the IRS concluded that such payments were legally allowed during a shutdown. At the time, the White House Office of Management and Budget, under President Barack Obama, rejected that position and directed the IRS not to pay refunds during a shutdown. But the IRS said Monday in a news release that the OMB had reviewed the issue at the Treasury's Department's request and now agrees with the IRS counsel's position.

The IRS said it will recall a "significant portion" of its roughly 52,000 furloughed employees to work on tax returns. The agency also announced the Jan. 28 date to start processing returns. That's within the normal timeframe.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
23,531.35	2,549.69	6,823.47
+98.19	+17.75	+84.61
+0.42%	+0.707%	+1.26%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4026	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8381	Russian Ruble	67.1697
British Pound	0.7832	Indian Rupee	69.4452	Singapore Dollar	1.3590
Canadian Dollar	1.3276	Japanese Yen	108.9900	South Korean Won	1106.81
Chinese Yuan	6.7355	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0706	Swiss Franc	0.9815
Euro	0.8741	New Zealand Dollar	1.4851	Taiwan Dollar	30.3543
		Philippine Peso	51.4578	Thailand Baht	32.0325

Nation

AP
California Gov. Gavin Newsom, left, talks with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.

Gov. Newsom points to California exceptionalism, challenges

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California Gov. Gavin Newsom boldly declared his state a model for the nation Monday but said its leaders have failed to rein in the soaring cost of living and stem inequalities that are making it harder for people to achieve what he called the "California dream."

"We face serious challenges—some that have been deferred for too long," Newsom said in his inaugural address. "We face a gulf between the rich and everyone else—and it's not just inequality of wealth, it's inequality of opportunity."

Still, Newsom said it's California that can best defend U.S. values in the face of "incompetence and corruption" in Washington. He never mentioned President Donald Trump by name, but his speech was laced with sharp rebukes of Trump's policies, particularly on immigration.

"The future depends on us," he said. "And we will seize this moment."

Hours after taking the oath of office, Newsom proposed state-funded health care coverage for 138,000 young people living in the country illegally and reinstating a mandate for everyone to buy insurance or pay a fine—part of former President Barack Obama's health care law that was eliminated by Republicans in Congress last year.

The outgoing governor, fellow Democrat Jerry Brown, and other political dignitaries packed into a tent outside the Capitol in Sacramento for Newsom's address. A church choir from Compton and a Mexican-American band energized the crowd in a display of the 51-year-old Newsom's flashier style.

The crowd became hushed and somewhat subdued when Newsom first began his speech, but laughter soon broke out when Newsom's 2-year-old son, Dutch, wandered on stage dragging a blanket.

Newsom held him for part of the speech and, when he put him down, the 2-year-old alternated between hiding behind the podium and evading his mother's grasp while walking across the stage. Newsom's wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, eventually carried him off stage.

Newsom praised Brown, a longtime family friend, for his fiscal restraint but signaled an unmistakable shift in priorities. He barely mentioned climate change—one of Brown's signature issues—water or the high-speed rail line Brown has championed.

Instead, he focused on policies benefiting children and families, including early childhood education, health care and housing. He suggested California has failed to adequately care for suffering families. California is the world's fifth-largest economy but also has the nation's highest child poverty rate and largest homeless population.

"We have the resources to ensure a decent standard of living for all," he said. "It's not a question of whether we can do this, but whether we will."

He indicated he will be more willing to invest in those pricey priorities than Brown, who focused on saving money for a future recession and warned before leaving office that Democrats would overspend.

Newsom will deliver his first budget address Thursday, offering a look at whether he can make fresh investments while keeping California's reserves stocked, as he's pledged.

"For eight years, California has built a foundation of rock," he said. "Our job now is not to rest on that foundation. It is to build our house upon it."

Democratic lawmakers praised Newsom for his focus on early childhood education, while Republicans, who are in the minority, held off on harshly criticizing the new governor. Other statewide elected officials also were sworn in Monday, including Eleni Kounalakis, the state's first elected female lieutenant governor.

"Today California turns a page in its history," Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon said. "With a new governor, we have the chance to reaffirm our commitment to be bold on behalf of the people who have elected us to serve."

Man charged in California camper's death; 10 other shootings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An ex-convict has been charged with killing a father who was camping with his daughters in a Southern California park and trying to kill the girls and eight others in a series of shootings over two years, prosecutors said Monday.

Anthony Rauda, 42, was charged in Los Angeles County Superior Court with one count of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and five counts of burglary in a rash of break-ins and shootings targeting campers and drivers that stirred fear near a popular state park outside Los Angeles.

Rauda is accused of shooting Tristan Beaudette in the head while the 35-year-old father camped in a tent with his young daughters on June 18 in Malibu Creek State Park. The girls, ages 2 and 4, were not injured but are considered victims of attempted murder and listed in a criminal complaint as Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2.

The park 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of downtown LA was closed temporarily after the slaying. Much of the park, which has served as a filming location for movies and TV shows such as "M.A.S.H.," was charred in recent wildfires.

Fear spread when authorities acknowledged after the killing that several shootings had occurred in the area, but they were not previously thought to be related. Other victims then came forward to report they had been shot at in the park or driving past it.

Rauda was arrested in October in a ravine near the park dressed in black and carrying a rifle in his backpack. Officers had been searching on foot and by helicopter for an armed burglar who had broken into businesses and homes and stolen food.

Rauda was on probation at the time of his arrest, according to Luis Patino of the Department of Corrections. Rauda was first sent to state prison in 2006 for possessing explosives, Patino said. He was sent back in 2014 for being a felon with a loaded gun.

After his arrest in October, Rauda was sentenced to nearly a year in jail for violating probation and illegally having a gun and ammunition, said Shiara Davila-Morales of the district attorney's office.

Parolee held in triple killing at California bowling alley

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP)—A parolee who spent 17 years in prison was arrested on suspicion of shooting into a crowd during a brawl at a Los Angeles-area bowling alley and bar, killing three people and injuring four others, police announced Monday.

Reginald Wallace, 47, of Los Angeles, was arrested Sunday, Torrance Police Chief Eve Irvine announced.

Wallace remained jailed without bail Monday. It was unclear whether he had an attorney.

Irvine said two people began fighting at Gable House Bowl in the city of Torrance on Friday night, then more people joined in and finally 10 to 15 people were brawling. At that point Wallace, who already was inside the building, pulled a handgun from his pocket and opened fire, the chief said.

Shots rang out and sent people running for their lives. Three men died at the scene and four other people were wounded.

It was unclear whether the gunman knew his victims, Irvine said.

"I do know that he was shooting into a crowd," the chief said. "And there was a lot going on. It was complete chaos at this time. People were running all over, there were fights still occurring and when he pulled out the handgun, the minute people started hearing shots, even more chaos erupted."

He did not reload and was believed to have acted alone, Irvine said.

Wallace was released from prison in 2017 after serving time for assault with a deadly weapon, Irvine said.

Friends and relatives of the victims held a candlelight vigil Saturday night in the parking lot of the bowling alley. A memorial with photos and flowers was also set up at the site.

Dwayne Edwards of Los Angeles said his nephew called him to tell him that his 28-year-old son, Astin Edwards, was among those killed. His nephew told him his son was trying to break up a fight when a gunman "just started unloading."

"I'm thinking this is a dream and I'll wake up," the 60-year-old Edwards told the Orange County Register. "He was a good kid. I don't understand it."

Anglean Hubbard told KABC-TV that her 28-year-old son, Robert Meekins, also died while trying to break up the fight. She said Meekins and Astin Edwards were close.

Asia

North Korea's Kim Jong Un arrives in Beijing for talks

BEIJING (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing on Tuesday at the start of a four-day visit, in what's likely an effort to coordinate with his only major ally ahead of a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump that could happen early this year.

A long motorcade including motorcycle outriders reserved for state leaders left a Beijing train station shortly after the arrival of an armored train consisting of 20 to 25 cars—most of whose windows were blacked-out—along tracks lined by police and paramilitary troops.

Kim's trip, announced earlier by both sides, comes after U.S. and North Korean officials are believed to have met in Vietnam to discuss the location of a second summit.

North's Korean Central News Agency said Kim departed Monday afternoon with his wife Ri Sol Ju and other top officials. It said Kim is visiting China at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Tuesday also happens to be Kim's birthday.

China's official Xinhua News Agency issued a nearly identical report, while Beijing's North Railway Station was cocooned in security, with dozens of police and paramilitary troops patrolling outside.

Kim is expected to stay at the highly secure Diaoyutai State Guest House in the capital's west, with meetings held at the Great Hall of the People, the hulking seat of the legislature that sits next to Tiananmen Square.

The trip marked a further break with past practice in that it was announced in advance of Kim's arrival, a possible sign of growing confidence on the part of North Korea and China, Pyongyang's most important trading partner and a key buffer against pressure from Washington.

After years of cool relations following Kim's assumption of power 2011, ties have improved remarkably over the past year as Xi seeks to maintain his influence in the region.

Kim's trip comes as the U.S. and North Korea look to settle the North's decades-long pursuit of a nuclear arsenal.

Washington and Pyongyang seemed close to war at points during 2017 as the North staged a series of increasingly powerful weapons tests that got it tantalizingly close to its nuclear goal of one day targeting with pinpoint accuracy anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

Possibly fearing the economic effect of crushing outside sanctions imposed because of his weapons' tests, Kim abruptly turned to diplomacy with Seoul and Washington last year. He also visited China three times, notably without a reciprocal visit from Xi in a break with diplomatic convention.

But even after what was seen as a blockbuster summit between Kim and Trump in Singapore last June — the first-ever between the leaders of the war enemies — there's been little real progress in nuclear disarmament.

Washington is pressing the North to offer up a detailed accounting of its nuclear arsenal, while Pyongyang says it has already done enough and it's time for the U.S. to ease harsh international sanctions that hold back the North Korean economy.

Trump has offered assurances that another summit will allow he and Kim to make a grand deal to settle the nuclear standoff and change a relationship marked by decades of animosity and mistrust.

However, outside analysts are highly skeptical that the North will easily abandon a nuclear arsenal constructed in the face of deep poverty and likely seen by Kim as his only guarantee of regime survival.

Instead, Kim may be seeking to gauge China's attitude toward sanctions ahead of the talks, including what the North would have to concede in order to win Beijing's support at the U.N.

The North has held off on additional nuclear weapons and missile tests for more than a year, possibly in response to China's displeasure, while carrying out its new diplomatic offensive.

"The two leaders will further communicate over the issue of sanctions to further refine their previously general and vague attitudes," said Cheng Xiaohe, professor at Renmin University's School of International Studies in Beijing.

"It is impossible to see the cancellation of all sanctions, but what kind of sanctions can be cancelled and what are China and North Korea's views on that will be discussed," Cheng said.

Trump has pushed heavily for Chinese support in convincing North Korea to give up its weapons programs, suggesting that could win Beijing better terms in a trade deal with Washington.

Kim's arrival in Beijing coincides with U.S.-China trade talks in Beijing that seek to end the trade dispute between the world's two largest economies ahead of a March deadline.

AP

People watch a TV screen showing file footage of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

ASIAN BRIEFS

White House calls detentions of Canadians in China unlawful

TORONTO (AP)—The White House is calling the detentions of two Canadians in China unlawful and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Donald Trump have agreed to continue to seek their release, officials said Monday. China grabbed the Canadians in apparent retaliation for the arrest of a top Chinese tech executive last month. Trudeau spoke to Trump in a phone call Monday. "President Trump spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today, during which the two discussed the unlawful detention of two Canadian citizens in China as well as bilateral trade issues," White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement. The White House hasn't spoken publicly about the detained Canadians until now. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a State Department spokesman previously called for their release. "The Prime Minister thanked the President for the strong statements of support by the United States in response to the arbitrary detention of two Canadians in China. The two leaders agreed to continue to seek their release," Trudeau's office said in a summary of the call. The Chinese detained Canadian ex-diplomat Michael Kovrig and entrepreneur Michael Spavor last month on vague allegations of "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China. The arrests came after Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, was arrested in Canada on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States, which wants her extradited to face charges that she and her company misled banks about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Roadside bombs wounds 8 in southwest Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani officials say two roadside bombs blasts have wounded eight people in the country's southwestern Baluchistan province. Officer Shams Uddin of the Levies Force said Sunday that the convoy of the force's senior officer Abdul Malik was targeted in Pishin district with a roadside bomb planted in a motorcycle. He said the attack left Malik, his two subordinates and three civilians wounded. In the second attack, a Frontier Corps paramilitary soldier and a civilian were wounded in Panjgur district when a remote-controlled bomb exploded as a paramilitary vehicle was driving by. Police officer Khurshid Dashti said the security vehicle was badly damaged. No one claimed responsibility for either attack. Baluchistan has been a scene of low level insurgency by Baluch separatists who have claimed such attacks in the past.

Giving up gas: China's Shenzhen switches to electric taxis

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—One of China's major cities has reached an environmental milestone: an almost entirely electric-powered taxi fleet.

The high-tech hub of Shenzhen in southern China announced at the start of this year that 99 percent of the 21,689 taxis operating in the city were electric. Last year, it still had 7,500 gasoline-powered taxis on the roads. A few can still be found, but electric ones far outnumber them.

The metropolis of 12.5 million is the second to achieve this feat in China and the largest. The northern China city of Taiyuan, with a population of 4.3 million, has had only electric taxis since 2016.

Shenzhen "has taken the lead among major Chinese cities," said Cui Dongshu, the secretary-general of the China Passenger Car Association.

Shenzhen's bus fleet has been all-electric since 2017. It's one of 13 pilot cities promoting alternative-energy public transport to cut smog and develop the alternative energy industry, the Shenzhen Municipality Transport Committee said.

Beijing and other Chinese cities are served by legions of electric scooters, bicycles and three-wheeled delivery vehicles that help reduce emissions—and sometimes startle pedestrians with their near-silent operation.

Shenzhen's 20,000-plus electric taxis will reduce carbon emissions by about 850,000 tons a year, the city's transport committee said. However, the all-electric initiative doesn't include Uber-like ride-hailing and ride-sharing services, which are popular in China.

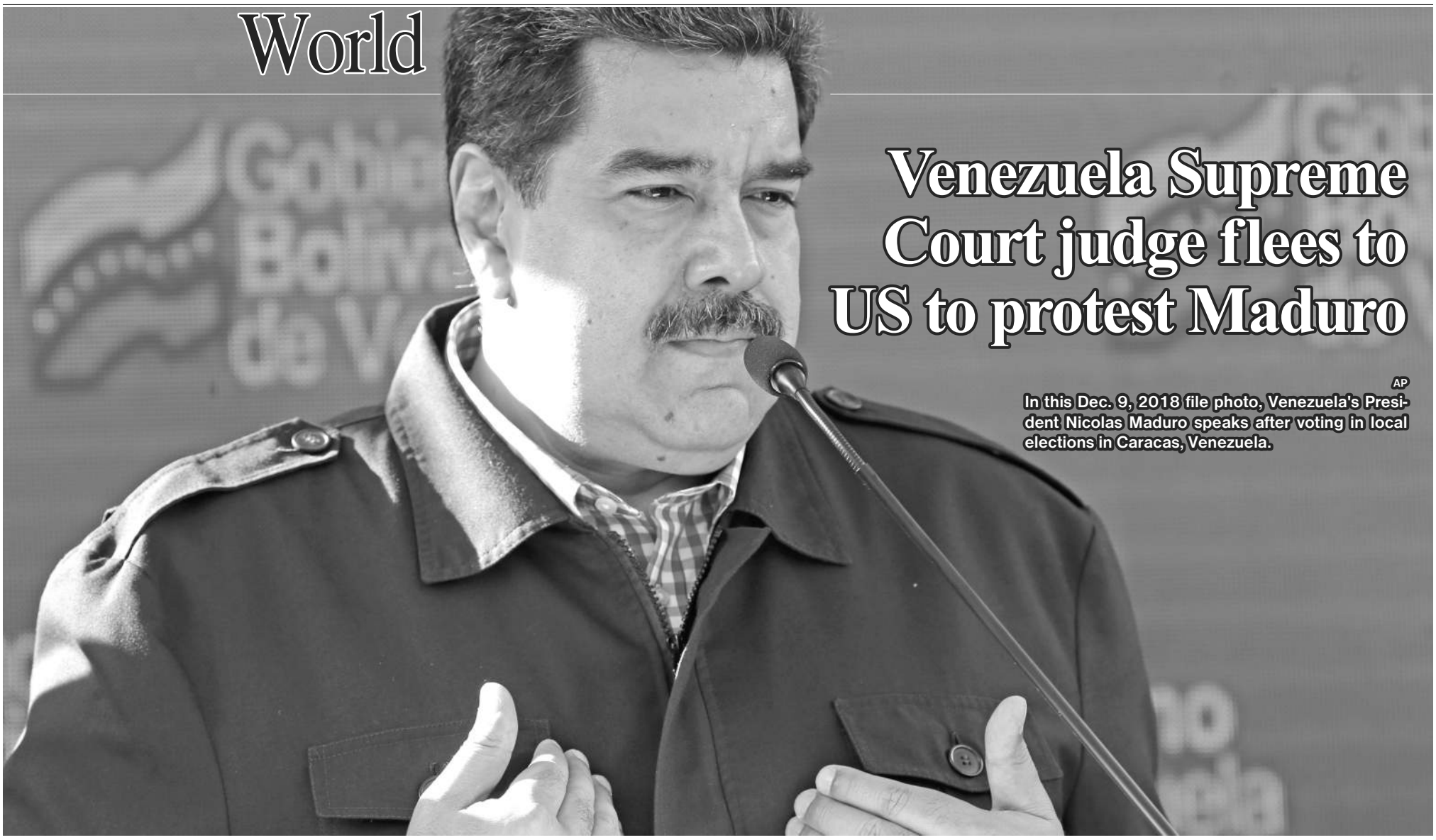
Providing places to recharge taxis has been a big hurdle since Shenzhen rolled out its first 100 electric cabs in 2010. Cui praised the city for its network of about 20,000 public charging stations, which he said should be enough to meet most of the demand.

The electric taxis are equipped with an on-board terminal that tells drivers where taxis are in short supply, such as the airport, train station or other locations. It also clearly displays the fare and the taxi's route, which the Shenzhen transport committee said would help prevent drivers from overcharging or taking a roundabout route.

Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, is home to Huawei Technologies and a host of other Chinese technology companies.

World

Venezuela Supreme Court judge flees to US to protest Maduro



AP
In this Dec. 9, 2018 file photo, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks after voting in local elections in Caracas, Venezuela.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —A Venezuelan Supreme Court justice and longtime government loyalist who fled the socialist country for a new life in the United States called Nicolas Maduro an incompetent president leading the once-wealthy country to ruins.

Christian Zerpa's embarrassing defection came days before Maduro begins his second term amid calls from critics and the international community to relinquish power.

Zerpa on Monday accused Venezuela's high court of becoming a tool of Maduro's inner circle, lacking any judicial independence since he and a group of ruling party members were appointed to the bench in 2015.

"Nicolas Maduro doesn't know the constitution, and he doesn't know the laws," Zerpa said in a Florida news conference. "This has no other name than a dictatorship."

A once wealthy oil nation, Venezuela is in the throes of a historic crisis after two decades of socialist rule. Millions have fled, while runaway inflation leaves those remaining behind struggling to afford scarce food and medicine.

Maduro is expected to take his oath of office on Thursday before the Supreme Court, launching his second, six-year term.

Political opponents and many foreign nations consider it illegitimate, saying his re-election in May was a sham because popular opponents were banned from running and the largest anti-government parties boycotted the race.

Zerpa said that he fled with his family because he didn't want to play a role legitimizing Maduro's rule. Relatives staying behind have since been visited by Venezuela's intelligence police, he said.

"Maduro is incompetent," Zerpa said. "The country and it public companies are in ruins."

In far-reaching comments, Zerpa said the military lacks a national conscience for allowing Maduro stay in power, and he accused Supreme Court chief justice Maikel Moreno of having ties with drug traffickers.

Zerpa didn't provide evidence, holding back sensitive information, but said that he's ready to cooperate with a sweeping U.S. investigation into corruption and human rights abuses among Venezuela's well-connected.

Maduro loyalist Moreno said Sunday that Zerpa fled Venezuela to escape allegations of sexual harassment charges lodged by women in his office. Zerpa denied Moreno's claims.

Zerpa surfaced publicly in Miami on Sunday, describing how he received directions from the influential first lady Cilia Flores on how to rule in politically sensitive cases.

As a newly installed justice, he recounted being summoned to the court and told to sign off on a key ruling without first reviewing its details. It disqualified three elected representatives of Amazonas state from taking their seats in congress following the opposition's sweep of legislative elections in 2015.

The key ruling cemented Maduro's power, preventing the opposition from amassing a two-third super majority that would have severely curtailed Maduro's power.

Zerpa apologized for propping up Maduro's government as long as he did, saying that he feared being jailed as a dissident where his life would be put at risk.

"I will not be able to return to Venezuela," Zerpa said. "I am a dead man."

Zerpa is among the top Venezuelan officials who have been sanctioned by Canada, but he has not been targeted by U.S. authorities, who accuse dozens in Maduro's administration of using their power for personal gain.

Pressure has been mounting against Maduro internationally and from his political opponents still inside Venezuela.

A dozen Latin American governments and Canada delivered a blistering rebuke Friday, rejecting the legitimacy of Maduro's second term and urging him to hand over power as the only path to restoring democracy.

The opposition-led congress on Saturday opened its session for the year vowing to battle against Maduro's socialist administration.

Guatemala to withdraw from UN anti-corruption commission

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —Guatemala announced Monday it was pulling out of a United Nations-sponsored anti-corruption commission after more than a year of tension between the government and the group, which has investigated top government officials and people close to President Jimmy Morales.

Foreign Minister Sandra Jovel announced the decision after meeting with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about the commission, known as CICIG for its initials in Spanish, at the United Nations.

An hour later, Morales, accompanied by ministers and family members of people accused of corruption, held a news conference in Guatemala City in which he accused the U.N. and Guterres of being silent in the face of what he said were human rights abuses committed by CICIG.

"In spite of Guatemala's efforts with the United Nations, the silence, passivity and negativism of the secretary-general contributed to an uncertainty in the CICIG's actions that put at risk the country's sovereignty," Guatemala's president said.

Members of a Russian family accused and convicted of corruption for the use of false documents to open businesses and buy property in Guatemala thanked Morales for withdrawing from the commission.

"Thank you, Mr. President, for your fight for sovereignty and human rights," said Irina Bitkova, whose family was affected by the commission's work in Guatemala.

Guterres' spokesman Stephane Dujarric issued a statement saying the U.N. expects Guatemala to keep up its end of an agreement that created the commission, until its mandate ends in September.

Guterres "strongly rejects" Guatemala's complaints in withdrawing from the commission, Dujarric said, adding that the group has made an "important contribution ... to the fight against impunity in Guatemala."

Jovel accused the commission and its members of politicizing its work, violating Guatemala's sovereignty, failing to respect the presumption of innocence and causing "division in our society."

Britain testing 'no-deal' scenario as Brexit vote nears

LONDON (AP)—Britain is testing how its motorway and ferry system would handle a "no-deal" Brexit by sending a stream of trucks from a closed local airport to the port of Dover—even as some legislators try to pressure the government to rule out the scenario.

The tests began Monday morning and are intended to gauge how severe the disruption would be if Britain leaves the European Union on March 29 without an agreed-upon withdrawal deal.

It is widely expected that an abrupt departure would lead to the introduction of tariff and customs barriers that would slow fast-moving ferry and rail traffic that links Britain to continental Europe. There are concerns that major traffic jams leading in and out of ferry ports like Dover would greatly hamper trade and leave Britain without adequate food and medicine.

Parliament is expected to resume its debate over the government's planned withdrawal deal Wednesday, with a vote widely expected a week later.

There are no indications that lobbying over the Christmas and New Year holiday period has garnered Prime Minister Theresa May more support for her plan.

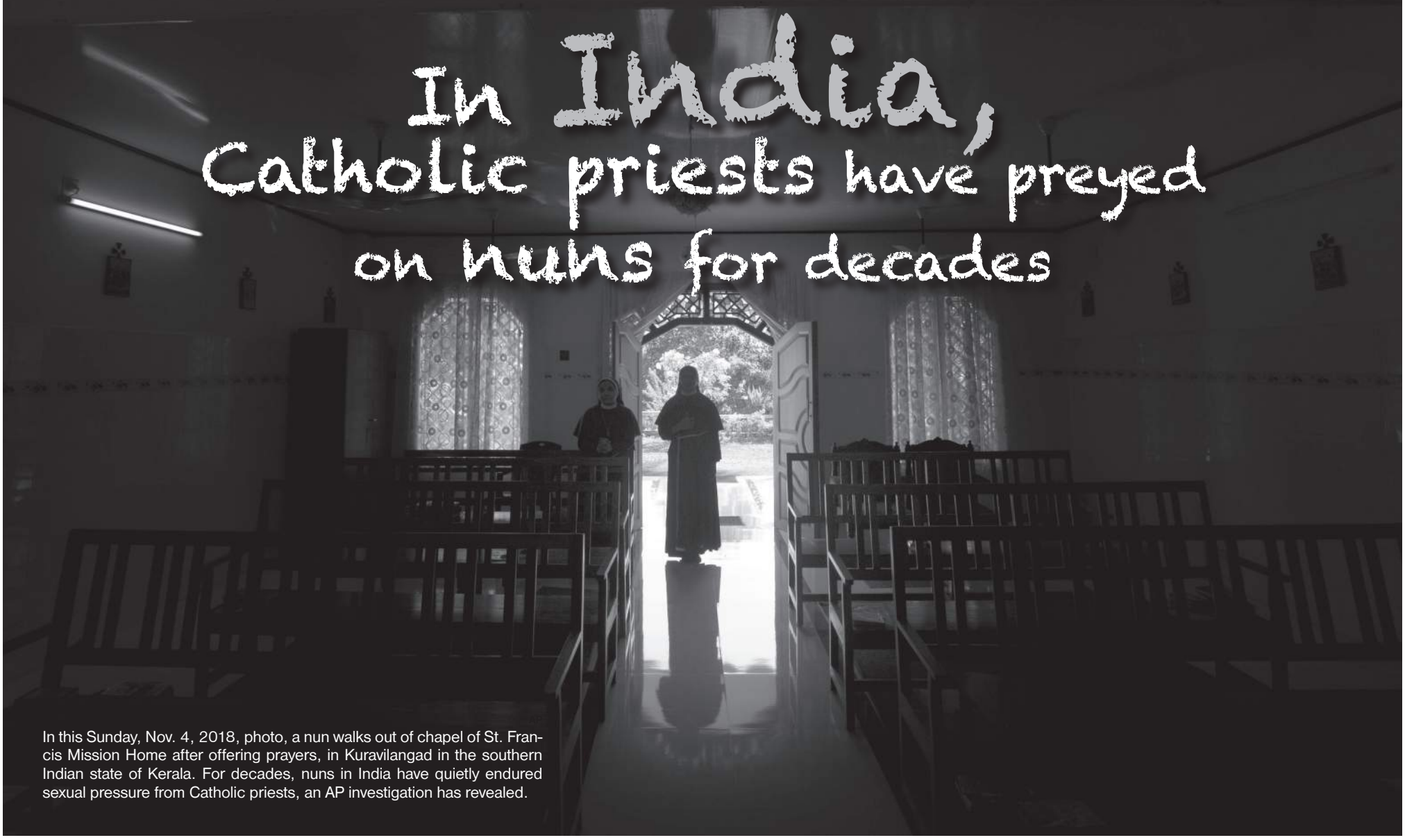
The withdrawal agreement, which is required before more wide-ranging discussions on future relations can commence, foresees relatively close economic ties with Europe, particularly in the immediate aftermath of Brexit, in order to avoid the imposition of a hard border between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K.

As well as frustrating a number of lawmakers who want a complete break from the EU, the plan also raises the prospect that the U.K. could be "trapped" in a customs arrangement if no agreement on future trade ties is reached. There are also a number of lawmakers who have said they will vote against the deal because they want another referendum on Britain's membership of the EU.

A vote that had been scheduled in December was delayed as May admitted it would face certain defeat.

Focus

In India, Catholic priests have preyed on nuns for decades



In this Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, photo, a nun walks out of chapel of St. Francis Mission Home after offering prayers, in Kuravilangad in the southern Indian state of Kerala. For decades, nuns in India have quietly endured sexual pressure from Catholic priests, an AP investigation has revealed.

By TIM SULLIVAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KURAVILANGAD, India (AP)—The stories spill out in the sitting rooms of Catholic convents, where portraits of Jesus keep watch and fans spin quietly overhead. They spill out in church meeting halls bathed in fluorescent lights, and over cups of cheap instant coffee in convent kitchens. Always, the stories come haltingly, quietly. Sometimes, the nuns speak at little more than a whisper.

Across India, the nuns talk of priests who pushed into their bedrooms and of priests who pressured them to turn close friendships into sex. They talk about being groped and kissed, of hands pressed against them by men they were raised to believe were representatives of Jesus Christ.

"He was drunk," said one nun, beginning her story. "You don't know how to say no," said another.

At its most grim, the nuns speak of repeated rapes, and of a Catholic hierarchy that did little to protect them.

The Vatican has long been aware of nuns sexually abused by priests and bishops in Asia, Europe, South America and Africa, but it has done very little to stop it, The Associated Press reported last year.

Now, the AP has investigated the situation in a single country—India—and uncovered a decades-long history of nuns enduring sexual abuse from within the church. Nuns described in detail the sexual pressure they endured from priests, and nearly two dozen other people—nuns, former nuns and priests, and others—said they had direct knowledge of such incidents.

Still, the scale of the problem in India remains unclear, cloaked by a powerful culture of silence. Many nuns believe abuse is commonplace, insisting most sisters can at least tell of fending off a priest's sexual advances. Some believe it is rare. Almost none, though, talk about it readily, and most speak only on the condition they not be identified.

But this summer, one Indian nun forced the issue into the open.

When repeated complaints to church officials brought no response, the 44-year-old nun filed a police complaint against the bishop who oversees her religious order, accusing him of raping her 13 times over two years. Soon after, a group of her fellow nuns launched a two-week public protest in India's Catholic heartland, demanding the bishop's arrest.

It was an unprecedented action, dividing India's Catholic community. Inside the accuser's convent in rural Kerala state, she and the nuns who support her are now pariahs, isolated from the other sisters, many of whom insist the bishop is innocent. The protesting nuns get hate mail and avoid going out.

"Some people are accusing us of working against the church, of being against the church. They say, 'You are worshipping Satan,'" said one supporter, Sister Josephine Villoonnickal. "But we need to stand up for the truth."

Villoonnickal has been a nun for 23 years, joining when she was a teenager. She scoffs at the idea that she wants to harm the church.

"We want to die as sisters," she said.

Some nuns' accounts date back decades—like that of the sister, barely out of her teens, who was teaching in a Catholic school in the early 1990s.

It was exhausting work, and she was looking forward to the chance to reflect on what had led her—happily—to convent life.

"We have kind of a retreat before we renew our vows," she said, sitting in the painfully neat sitting room of her big-city convent, where doilies cover most every surface, chairs are lined up in rows and the blare of horns drifts in through open windows. "We take one week off and we go for prayers and silence."

She had traveled to a New Delhi retreat center, a collection of concrete buildings where she gathered with other young nuns. A priest was there to lead the sisters in reflection.

The nun, who like others interviewed for this story spoke on condition she not be identified, is a strong and forceful woman who has spent years working with India's poor and dispossessed, from battered wives to evicted families.

But when she talks about the retreat her voice grows quiet, as if she's afraid to be overheard in the empty room: "I felt this person, maybe he had some thoughts, some attraction."

He was in his 60s. She was four decades younger.

One night, the priest went to a neighborhood party. He came back late, after 9:30 p.m., and knocked at her room.

"'I need to meet you,'" he said when she cracked open the door, insisting he wanted to discuss her spiritual life. She could smell the alcohol.

"You're not stable. I'm not ready to meet you," she told him.

But the priest forced open the door. He tried to kiss her. He grabbed at her body, groping wherever he could.

Weeping, she pushed him back enough to slam the door and lock it.

It wasn't rape. She knows it could have been so much worse. But decades later she still reels at the memory, and this tough woman, for a few moments, looks like a scared young girl: "It was such a terrifying experience."

Afterward she quietly told her mother superior, who allowed her to avoid other meetings with the priest. She also wrote an anonymous letter to church officials, which she thinks may have led to the priest being re-assigned.

But nothing was said aloud. There were no public reprimands, no warnings to the many nuns the priest would work with through his long career.

She was too afraid to challenge him openly.

"I couldn't imagine taking that stand. It was too scary," she said. "For me it was risking my own vocation."

So the fierce nun remained silent.

Catholic history is filled with women who became martyrs to their own purity: Saint Agatha had her breasts torn off for refusing to marry; Saint Lucy was burned alive and stabbed in the throat for defending her virginity; Saint Maria Goretti was 11 years old when she was killed by a man who tried to rape her.

"It is a sin!" Maria is said to have cried out. "God does not want it!"

But for a nun, fighting off a priest's advances means pinballing through centuries-old sexual and clerical traditions. Celibacy is a cornerstone of Catholic religious life, as is sexual purity among nuns. Many nuns say a sister who admits to a sexual experience—even if it's forced—faces the risk of isolation within her order, and possibly even expulsion.

"You're not sure if you'll be kept in your congregation, because so much is about your vow of chastity," said Sister Shalini Mulackal, a New Delhi-based theologian. "That fear is there for the young ones to disclose what has happened to them."

At the same time, priests are seen as living representatives of Christ, with obedience to them another Catholic cornerstone.

Then there is the isolation of young women struggling to find their way in new communities after leaving their homes.

Caught at this intersection of sexual taboo, Catholic hierarchy and loneliness, sisters can be left at the mercy of predatory priests.

"There's a lot of emotion bottled up and when a little tenderness is shown by somebody it can be so easy for you to cross boundaries," said Sister Dorothy Fernandes, who has spent years working with the urban poor in eastern India. "It can be hard to tell what is love

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and what is exploitation."

It's particularly hard for sisters from Kerala, a deeply conservative region long the birthplace of most Indian nuns. Sex is rarely mentioned openly in small-town Kerala, boys and girls are largely kept apart, and a visible bra strap can be a minor crisis for a young woman.

"Once you grow up, once you get your first menstruation, you are not encouraged to speak normally to a boy. And the boys also vice-versa," said a nun from Kerala, a cheerful woman with sparkly glass earrings and an easy smile. She remembers the misery of Sunday mass as an adolescent, when boys would stand outside the church to watch girls filing in, eyes crawling over their young figures. "We have a terrible taboo about sex."

That naivety, she said, can be costly.

Like the time she was a novice nun, still in her teens, and an older priest came to the Catholic center where she worked. He was from Goa, a coastal region and former Portuguese colony.

She shook her head: "I was in charge of visitors, and we had this bad habit of being hospitable."

At one point, she brought the priest's laundry to his small room, where he was sitting. As she set down the clothes, he grabbed her and began to kiss her.

At first, she had no idea what was happening.

"The kissing was all coming here," she said, gesturing at her chest.

The confusion of that day is still clear on her face: "I was young. He was from Goa. I am from Kerala. In my mind I was trying to figure out: 'Is this the way that Goans kiss?'"

She quickly understood what was happening but couldn't escape his fierce grip. She also could not call out for help: "I cannot shout! He's a priest."

"I didn't want to offend him. I didn't want to make him feel bad," she said.

So she pushed herself away from him until she could slip out the door.

She quietly told a senior nun to not send novices to the priest's room. But, like the nun who fought the drunken priest, she made no official complaint.

A complaint against a priest means leveling an accusation against someone higher in the church hierarchy. It can mean getting pulled into a tangle of malicious rumors and church politics. It means risking your reputation, and the reputation of your order.

In the church, even some of those who doubt there is widespread abuse of nuns say the silence can be enveloping.

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, a New Delhi-based church leader, calls incidents of abuse "kind of sporadic. Once here, once there."

But "many people don't want to talk," he continued. "They may talk in the community, but they don't want to bring it to the public, to the court."

Speaking up can also risk financial troubles, since many congregations of nuns are financially subservient to priests and bishops.

The silence is magnified in India by demographics, religious politics and a deep-seated belief that women have little value.

There are roughly 18 million Catholics in India, but that's a small minority in this largely Hindu nation of 1.3 billion. Speaking up could tarnish the image of their church, many nuns worry, and feed criticism by Hindu hardliners.

"Even we, as religious sisters, even we try to keep it quiet," said Mulackal, the theologian. "A woman who goes through this experience, she just wants to hide it and pretend everything is OK."

The rapes, the nun says, happened in Room 20 of a small convent at the end of a one-lane road in rural Kerala.

Set amid rows of banana and rubber trees near the little town of Kuravilangad, the sisters at the St. Francis Mission Home spend their days in prayer or caring for the aged. In the garden, a statue of the Virgin Mary overlooks a decorative fish pond the size of a child's wading pool. The pond is covered in green scum.

The rapist, she says, was the most powerful man in this tiny small world: Bishop Franco Mulakkal.

Smart and ambitious, Mulakkal had risen from small-town Kerala to become a bishop in north India, overseeing a sprawling Catholic community. He was also the official patron of her community of 81 sisters, the Missionaries of Jesus, wielding immense influence over its budgets and job assignments.

The nun is a friendly woman with jet black hair known for her quiet confidence. Every few months, she says, Mulakkal would visit the St. Francis convent and summon her. Then, according to a letter she wrote to church officials, he raped her.

The letter says the first rape happened on May 5, 2014. The last time was Sept. 23, 2016. The dates are recorded in the convent's visitor logs.

Mulakkal angrily denies the accusations, telling reporters the charges were "baseless and concocted" and accusing the sister of trying to blackmail him into giving her a better job.

"I am going through painful agony," said Mulakkal, who was jailed for three weeks and released on bail in October. "I tell everyone to pray to God: Let the truth prevail."

AP

In this Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, photo, Sister Josephine Villoonnickal, left, sister Alphy Pallasseril, center, and Sister Anupama Kelamangalathu, who have supported the accusation of rape against Bishop Franco Mulakkal talk at St. Francis Mission Home, in Kuravilangad in southern Indian state of Kerala. For decades, nuns in India have quietly endured sexual pressure from Catholic priests, an AP investigation has revealed.

AP

In this Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018, photo, a Catholic nun stands at the foyer of the St. Francis Mission Home in Kuravilangad in the southern Indian state of Kerala. For decades, nuns in India have quietly endured sexual pressure from Catholic priests, an AP investigation has revealed.

Catholicism envelopes this part of Kerala. Towns are marked by their cathedrals, convents and roadside shrines, where the Virgin watches passing traffic or St. George slays the dragon. Businesses proclaim their owners' faith: St. Mary's Furniture and Bed Center; Ave Maria Electronics; Jesus Oil Industries.

Around here, many see Mulakkal as a martyr.

A string of supporters visited him in jail, and crowds greeted him when he returned home, a ring of policemen holding back people who showered him with flower petals. "Hearty Welcome!" a banner proclaimed.

But at the St. Francis convent, one group of nuns watched news reports about that welcome with dismay. While the sister leveling the accusations against Mulakkal does not speak publicly, a half-dozen nuns cluster around her, offering support and speaking on her behalf.

"Nobody came to see sister, but so many people came to wait in line to meet Bishop Franco in jail," said Villoonnickal, the nun, who moved back to Kerala to support the woman she calls "our survivor sister."

That sister was the second of five children in a Kerala family. Her father was in the army. Her mother died when she was in high school. Wracked with grief, she was sent to stay with a cousin - a priest - living in north India. Inspired by her time with him, she became a nun in 1994, working in her early years as a teacher.

She knew Mulakkal, of course. Everyone in the Missionaries of Jesus knows him. But the two were never close, the accuser's friends say, and had no consensual sexual relationship.

It was about fear.

"The bishop is such a powerful person and standing against him, where will she go?" asked Villoonnickal. "If she went home what will happen to her?"

"Many times she was telling him to stop. But each time he was forcing himself on her," she continued.

Eventually, they say, she told some sisters what was happening. Then she says she repeatedly complained to church authorities. When nothing happened, she went to the police.

She also went to confession.

There, according to the other nuns, she was told she had to resist the bishop.

"'Even if you have to die, don't submit yourself.'" the priest told her in confession, according to Villoonnickal. "'Be courageous.'"

Catholic authorities have said little about the case, with India's Catholic Bishops' Conference saying in an October statement that it has no jurisdiction over individual bishops, and that the investigation and court case, which could take many years, must run their course.

"Silence should in no way be construed as siding with either of the two parties," the group said. "We request prayers for the Church at this difficult time."

In Malayalam, the language of Kerala, sisters who leave the convent are sometimes marked as "Madhilu Chadi"—Wall Jumpers. It's a mocking term for the sexually frustrated and is often used for nuns and priests who have fled religious life.

Those who stay get respect. They have communities that embrace them. Their lives have direction, purpose. Those who leave often find themselves adrift in India, searching for new identities and spurned by families and friends. The events that knit families together—weddings, funerals, reunions—are suddenly off-limits. The emotional toll can be immense.

Speaking up about the church's troubles, many nuns say, could end with them forced from their convents, cut off in many ways from what they've always known.

"It's a fear of being isolated if I speak the truth," said the nun who fought off the drunken priest. "If you do that, you have to go against your own community, your own religious superiors."

The result is an engulfing silence. Silence is the armor that sisters use to protect themselves and the lives they have created, even if it also means struggling with their memories, and protecting the men who abused them.

In the end, most say nothing.

"I didn't tell anybody," said the nun who escaped the priest kissing her chest, and who waited many years to talk about what had happened to her. "So you understand how these things are covered up."

Good Housekeeping

Planting for butterflies and pollinators a most worthy New Year's resolution

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This time of the year garden writers all over the country try to reach readers with ideas of New Year's resolutions. Over the years you may have seen topics like hire only licensed or certified landscape professionals, compost, recycle, go native, plant water-wise, all of which are super ideas. This year I really want to reach out to you with the 'canary in the coal mine.'

Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg President and Founder of the North American Butterfly Association told me when we first met that butterflies were like the canary in the coal mine when it came to our ecosystem. A healthy butterfly population, one where new generations are constantly being created, speaks volumes for the overall health of the local environment.

I saw that first hand as the Director of the National Butterfly Center, in Mission, Texas. This 100-acre property owned by the North American Butterfly Association is located on the Lower Rio Grande River, right across from Mexico. Here native plants are arranged in gardens providing everything to not only attract but sustain the life of butterflies.

Well over 200 species have been identified right there which is quite an accomplishment when you consider most states in their entirety have far less. An example is Georgia where I live now, it has documented 160 species of butterflies. The larger lesson taught at the National Butterfly Center was that when you start providing for butterflies, your whole localized ecosystem seems to change.

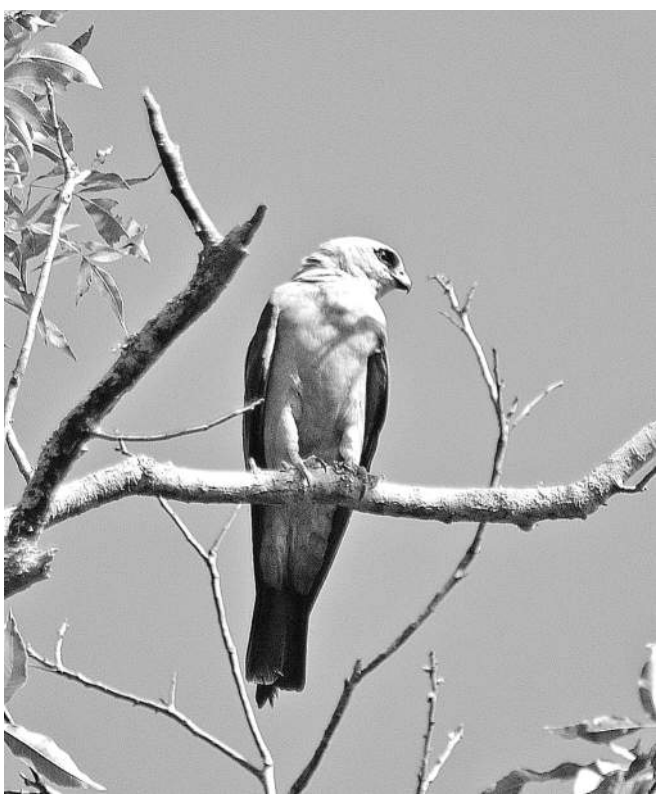
I feel I was able to see this at the Columbus Botanical Garden and the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah where I later served as Director. Birds who eat bugs including your butterflies and those who eat the seeds from plants you grow show up, while at the same time hummingbirds start to frequent many of the flowers while also carrying on pollination. Dragonflies, the arch-enemy of butterflies, proliferate as well.

TNS PHOTOS

Flowers like the Native Joe Pye weed are beautiful and treasured by butterflies like this Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

Milkweeds are the only source of larval food for the Monarch butterfly.

The Green Anole feeds on insects but also becomes the prey for birds and snakes.



Mississippi Kites are small acrobatic raptors that feed on insects like dragonflies, birds and small rodents.

Rabbits show up to eat their portion of some of the plants growing for butterflies and perhaps providing a little weed patrol too. Then those animals who eat birds and rabbits show up, and life really gets exciting. You'll find that once you start growing for pollinators, butterflies, bees, and birds, you will have created your own National Geographic spectacle. A word of caution, it will be hard for you to go indoors, to do your regular chores, pay the bills, and cook the meals. The kids may get off the video games.

You will find your outlook on caterpillars changing. At almost every seminar I give there is a stopping point about midway, where I ask the audience by a show of hands if they are caterpillar friendly. I am delighted to say I sense a real change within the gardening public. The caterpillar, once perhaps considered the enemy of the garden has now become the recognized reward, and woe to the lizard or bird that picks one off.

I remember one day in Savannah taking a couple of VIPs on a tour of the gardens and we found ourselves lingering at a Christmas bush senna (Senna bicapsularis), we weren't photographing the beautiful yellow blossoms but instead the Cloudless Sulphur caterpillar. These are among the most striking in the world of butterflies.

My wake-up call however of the importance of caterpillars came in Savannah when I received a phone call from a lady that was virtually in tears. She had Monarch caterpillars but all of her milkweed had been devoured. She asked almost hysterically if she could bring them to us since we had so many milkweeds. At least I thought we had many.

She showed up with a box containing 100 caterpillars. I slowly walked through the garden. A little milkweed plant got one caterpillar while larger plants were gifted with two or three. It took no time before we had little to no leaves as well.

Here is hoping in 2019 you'll start gardening with butterflies and other pollinators in mind. Your home ecosystem will thrive while providing you with beauty and untold joy. Take these cold dreary days to research the plants recommended for your area.

Native salvias are sought after by both hummingbirds and butterflies.

Life & Style

After a tame Globes, is a less-charged awards season ahead?

AP
Julia Roberts arrives at the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Golden Globe Awards looked like it had gone entirely back to frothy, bubbly business as usual, until Regina King did the impossible: She got the orchestra to stop playing her off. Not even Lady Gaga had that much power.

King used her platform on stage accepting the supporting actress award for "If Beale Street Could Talk," to shed a light on Time's Up x 2, the second year iteration of the legal defense fund founded in the wake of the sexual misconduct revelations that shook Hollywood.

"We understand that our microphones are big and we're speaking for everyone," she said before pledging that every project she produces for the next two years will have at least 50 percent of women working on it. "And I challenge anyone out there who is in in a position of power, not just in our industry, in all industries, I challenge you to ... stand with us in solidarity and do the same."

It would be one of the rare show-stopping moments of the night. After last year's Golden Globes were host to such a powerful display of female solidarity , in which top actresses walked the carpet in all-black alongside prominent activists in support of Time's Up and #MeToo, this year, statements were no longer collective. They were individual.

A few actresses, Gina Rodriguez and Rachel Brosnahan among them, wore Time's Up x 2 ribbons on the carpet; Patricia Clarkson said that her "Sharp Objects" director Jean-Marc Vallee "demanded everything of me except sex which is exactly how it should be in our industry"; Glenn Close implored women to "find personal fulfillment" and follow their dreams; Co-host Sandra Oh got emotional saying she said yes to hosting so that she could, "Look out on this audience and witness this moment of change"; And Emma Stone even shouted out an apology from the audience for playing a part-Asian character in "Aloha."

Sunday's Globes could be a sign that awards shows in general are going to return to business as usual: The occasional snide political remark (Christian Bale thanking Satan for inspiration playing Dick Cheney, or positing that Mitch McConnell might be a good "uncharismatic" role to play next, adding an expletive), or showbiz joke (Oh and Andy Samberg saying in unison that "one lucky audience member will host the Oscars!").

Harrison Ford presented the directing award and did not, as Natalie Portman did last year, note that all the nominees were men (again). Patricia Arquette, who three years ago called for equal pay while accepting her supporting actress Oscar, kept her speech to standard HFPA, fellow nominee and producer thanks (albeit with two F-bombs). And following two years of show-stealing Cecil B. DeMille award speeches from Meryl Streep and Oprah Winfrey, Jeff Bridges brought the honor back to earth with a heartfelt, nostalgic and, interestingly wide-ranging vamp about everything from Peter Bogdanovich and the Coen brothers to geodesic domes. Even Carol Burnett, as the first-ever recipient of an award named after her, stayed in the past as well, speaking about how her show would never get made today.

As for the winners, while the choices of the 88-member Hollywood Foreign Press Association has no direct relation to the nearly 8,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a win on a stage of the Golden Globes doesn't go unnoticed, and Oscar nomination voting began Monday. Some probably didn't need a bounce, like Olivia Colman's win for "The Favourite," or "Shallow" winning best original song. Some did, like Glenn Close who upset Lady Gaga with her best actress drama win for "The Wife" and gave one of the best speeches of the night. And two divisive-for-different-reasons films got high-profile boosts winning the top film awards and key acting awards: The Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" (which won over "A Star Is Born") and the inspired-by-a-true-story Jim Crow-era South road trip movie "Green Book."

"Bohemian Rhapsody" was not well-received by critics, who pointed out its factual inaccuracies and music biopic trappings, but resonated with audiences (it's made over $743 million worldwide to date), and its awards profile is growing. "Green Book," meanwhile, went from winning the audience award at the Toronto International Film Festival to being scrutinized for its racial politics.

"Green Book" director Peter Farrelly also got the orchestra to back off, but, in his case it was so that he could talk about his film.

"This story gave me hope and I wanted to share that hope with you," Farrelly said on stage. "If Don Shirley and Tony Vallelonga can find a common ground so can we."

Both pleased enough crowds and HFPA voters, despite the backlash, to win out over "A Star Is Born," a film that everyone, wrongly, presumed would dominate Sunday night.

But everyone loves an underdog, and now, it's "A Star Is Born's" turn to find its way back to the top.

Actor Ryan Gosling urges equitable trade in Congo minerals

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—As tensions build in Congo over the delay in announcing the election results, actor Ryan Gosling urged equitable trade in the country's strategic minerals.

Gosling collaborated on a book about the Central African country with activists and experts on Congo who have urged officials to announce a credible winner.

Congo's electoral commission on Sunday delayed indefinitely the announcement of the results of the Dec. 30 vote. However, the influential Catholic Church said it can see a clear winner from the 40,000 observers it posted across the country and it urged the electoral commission to publish the true results in "respect of truth and justice."

The U.S. government also urged the electoral commission to present accurate results that correspond to results announced at each of Congo's 75,000 polling stations. President Donald Trump said military personnel had deployed to Central Africa to protect U.S. assets from possible "violent demonstrations."

Congo's government forbids speculation about the winner before the official results are announced and it has imposed an internet blackout over the country to prevent conjecture on social media.

Gosling took photos in Congo that illustrate the book "Congo Stories," published last month with text written by activist John Prendergast and other Congo analysts.

Commenting on the edgy situation in Congo, Prendergast, joined calls for accurate results of the polling.

"It is impossible to ignore the mountains of evidence of a stolen election and a stolen government," said Prendergast. "If they steal the final electoral result, it will just compound the losses of the Congolese people, whose resources and rights have been taken by Congo's leaders, present and past."

Gosling called on consumers of smart phones, many of which contain strategic minerals from Congo, to make informed choices to help improve the lives of the Congolese people.

"I've learned that if Congo was the beneficiary of its own natural resources it would be one of the richest countries in the world as opposed to one of the poorest," wrote Gosling, responding by email to questions from The Associated Press.

"I've also learned that despite centuries of brutality and exploitation, there is an incredible movement in Congo among people who are using the living nightmares they have endured as fuel to make the hopes and dreams of their families and country a reality," he wrote.

"The momentary choices that we make as consumers can have lifelong consequences for the people of the countries from which those products are sourced," wrote Gosling. "We have an opportunity as consumers to support those who are being exploited in their efforts to achieve justice and live the lives to which they are entitled."

Congo's election is an opportunity for change from the better, according to the activists with whom Gosling collaborated on the book.

"The people of Congo are hungry for change after 17 years of a lack of governance under Kabila," said Chouchou Namegabe, a Congolese journalist. "These elections represent the possibility to have the first democratic transition of power in Congo in its post-independence history ... Congolese people need a choice for who governs them, though this election will probably not deliver that."

The international community should use economic sanctions to press Congo to deliver good governance, said Prendergast, founder of the Enough Project, which campaigns for international firms to disclose where they source strategic minerals from Congo and other African countries.

"From the colonial era up to the present, the state in Congo has been hijacked for the personal benefit of ruling elites and their business partners, leaving nothing for developing the nation," wrote Prendergast to AP. "The solution is a combination of supporting Congo's courageous reform movements along with imposing international sanctions and other consequences on the kleptocratic networks - led at this time by President Kabila - that continue to impoverish Congo and foment violence in the country."

Multinational corporations, particularly the manufacturers of smart phones and computers, should encourage stability in Congo, said Fidel Bafilemba, a Congolese civic leader and researcher who co-wrote the book with Prendergast. He said that eastern Congo has instability because of armed militia that control its lucrative mines.

Kevin Spacey pleads not guilty to groping young man at bar

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP)—Kevin Spacey pleaded not guilty Monday to groping an 18-year-old busboy in 2016 in the first criminal case brought against the disgraced actor following a string of sexual misconduct allegations that crippled his career.

Spacey's court appearance came more than a year after former Boston TV anchor Heather Unruh accused the former "House of Cards" star of sexually assaulting her son in a bar on the Massachusetts resort island of Nantucket.

Nantucket District Court Judge Thomas Barrett ordered Spacey to stay away from his accuser and the man's family. Spacey will not have to appear at his next hearing on March 4, but he must be available by phone, Barrett said.

The judge also ordered Spacey's accuser and the man's then-girlfriend to preserve text messages and other data on their cellphones from the day of the alleged assault and six months after. Spacey's attorney Alan Jackson told the judge they believe the cellphones contain information that is "likely exculpatory" for Spacey.

The actor and his lawyers declined to comment as they left the courthouse amid a crush of reporters. Spacey, wearing a gray suit, navy vest and polka dot tie, didn't speak during the hearing and his lawyers entered the not-guilty plea on his behalf.

In court documents, Spacey's lawyers called the accusations "patently false" and noted that prosecutors have no witnesses to the alleged groping. Spacey's lawyers wrote that the teen lied about his age, "welcomed" drinks bought by Spacey, left the bar with him to smoke a cigarette and gave Spacey his phone number.

"At best, this describes two people engaged in mutual and consensual flirtation, nothing more," his attorneys wrote.

If convicted of felony indecent assault and battery, the 59-year-old two-time Oscar winner could face as many as five years in prison.

Unruh's son told police that he wanted to get a picture with the former "House of Cards" star and went over to talk to him after his shift ended at the Club Car, a popular island bar and restaurant, according to court documents. The man said Spacey bought him several drinks and tried to convince him to come home with him before unzipping the man's pants and groping him for about three minutes.

AP

Actor Kevin Spacey arrives at district court on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Nantucket, Mass., to be arraigned on a charge of indecent assault and battery.

The accuser told police that he tried to move Spacey's hands, but the groping continued, and he didn't know what to do because he didn't want to get in trouble for drinking. The man said he fled when Spacey went to the bathroom.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people alleging sexual assault.

The civil attorney for the accuser said in a statement ahead of the hearing that his client is "leading by example."

"By reporting the sexual assault, my client is a determined and encouraging voice for those victims not yet ready to report being sexually assaulted," said lawyer Mitchell Garabedian, who has represented hundreds of clergy sexual abuse victims. Garabedian is not a part of the criminal case against Spacey.

Media trucks lined the street before dawn, and locals on the island, which teems with tourists in the summer but quiets down in the winter, drove by slowly to take photos of reporters standing in line in the cold. When the doors opened, more than two dozen journalists packed the courtroom hours before Spacey was scheduled to appear.

A judge denied Spacey's bid to avoid appearing in person Monday. Spacey had argued that his presence would "amplify the negative publicity already generated" by the case.

Hours after the court appearance, Spacey was pulled over for speeding as he exited Washington's Reagan National Airport and given a warning, said Athena Hernandez, a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Top court won't hear de Havilland's case about TV miniseries

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is declining to revive a lawsuit by Olivia de Havilland over the FX Networks miniseries "Feud: Bette and Joan," which centered on the rivalry between actresses Bette Davis and Joan Crawford.

The high court on Monday said it would not take the actress's case. That means a California appeals court's decision throwing out the lawsuit stands. The appeals court unanimously ruled in 2018 that California law and the First Amendment required the lawsuit's dismissal.

The 102-year-old de Havilland had objected to her depiction on the eight-part miniseries. She said her likeness was illegally used and her character, played by Catherine Zeta-Jones, came across as a vulgar gossipmonger.

As is its usual practice, the Supreme Court did not say anything about the case in declining to hear it.

AP

U.S. actress Olivia de Havilland poses during an Associated Press interview in Paris June 18.

One more sign K-Pop is here to stay, a contract with Mattel

NEW YORK (AP)—The trappings of success continue to arrive for K-pop sensation BTS, the latest a contract with the toy company Mattel which secured rights to produce dolls of the boy band.

And Mattel is not beyond riding those K-pop coattails. Shares of Mattel Inc. spiked almost 9 percent Monday, a day after the toymaker announced a global licensing agreement that also includes collectible figures and games.

The South Korean boy band, made up of members RM, Jin, SUGA, j-hope, Jimin, V and Jung Kook, last year became the first Korean pop group to reach No. 1 on the Billboard top 200.

BTS is an acronym of Bangtan Sonyeondan or "Beyond the Scene." The band debuted in June 2013.

Wife returns home to find extra lingerie in her bed

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 31 years. We have four lovely children and seven grandchildren.

I went to visit a friend out of state for a week. After I returned home, I went to make our bed. When I pulled back the sheets, I found a pair of lacy underwear that is absolutely not mine. I want to confront my husband, but what if I'm wrong? I wonder if there's a logical explanation or it belongs to one of my children who no longer live in the house.

Abby, I love my husband, but I cannot tolerate betrayal like this. What should I do?

ON PINS AND NEEDLES

DEAR ON PINS AND NEEDLES: Unless your husband has taken to wearing lacy underwear to bed, it appears there may have been a sleepover guest in your absence. Show him what you found, tell him you love him but will not tolerate a betrayal like this. Then insist on marriage counseling. If he values your 31-year marriage, he will take you up on it.

DEAR ABBY: I have just learned that a woman I have been very close with for the last 2 1/2 years has been faking breast cancer. She's a single mother. I decided to be there for her when she first told me about it, and have helped her extensively to pay for her chemo, radiation and other treatments. It turns out the payments were going toward luxuries and cosmetic surgery I discovered only later. The biggest violation for me in all of this was the emotional manipulation.

I have many questions now about how to proceed, but my question to you is: Can someone who is capable of doing this ever truly change? She has expressed some remorse and said that she wants help, but I'm not sure how to proceed. Most people have told me to cut my losses and just walk away or take legal action. There are so many questions involved in this betrayal, but I need to know if there is any hope for someone like this.

CUTTING MY LOSSES

DEAR CUTTING: Not in my opinion. The woman has sociopathic tendencies—she has no conscience, as she has amply demonstrated.

You should absolutely take legal action if you're interested in recouping your money. The first step would be to contact the police because the woman has committed fraud. The next step should be to call your lawyer. As to your hurt from her emotional manipulation, recognize that it's time to divorce yourself from your relationship with her.

DEAR ABBY: When children/babies are screaming, crying or misbehaving in a restaurant and the parents do nothing, can we approach them or tell our server to approach them to quiet their child or take the child outside? This happens frequently, and it ruins our dinner. We are senior citizens and would like to enjoy a quiet and peaceful meal. What's the proper way to handle this annoying situation?

IRRITATED DINER

DEAR IRRITATED DINER: When a child is screaming or misbehaving, a good parent takes the child outside until he/she calms down so other patrons are not bothered. When you encounter a parent who has such little consideration for the rest of the patrons in the restaurant, do NOT approach. Ask the server to do it or refer the problem to the manager.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

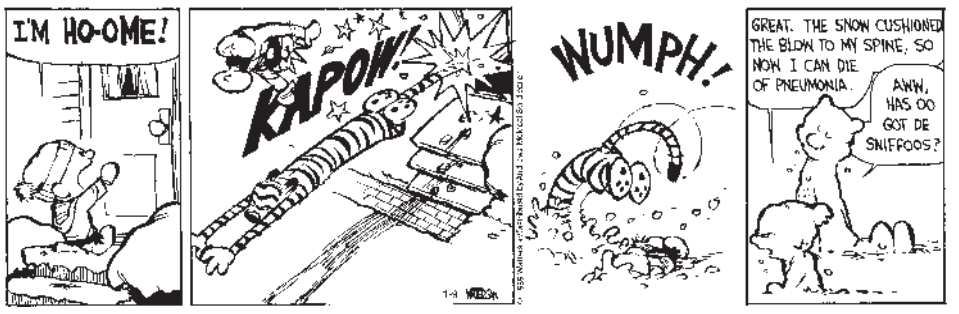
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
A PROTEIN SHAKE. GOTTA FEED THE BEAST.
SO. IT'S MILK AND... CHOCOLATE SYRUP AND...
ICE CREAM?
THAT'S A MILKSHAKE, DAD.
OKAY. I'M BUYING THE PROTEIN POWDER TOMORROW. THIS ONE WAS FOR PRACTICE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'VE DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THIS ACTOR'S MOVIES BECAUSE I'M FED UP WITH HIS GOOFY POLITICAL STATEMENTS.
THAT'LL TEACH HIM.
AREN'T YOU BEING A TAD NARROW-MINDED.
IS IT OKAY TO BOYCOTT HIM BECAUSE HE'S DATING THE ACTRESS I'M IN LOVE WITH?
WELL, SURE. THAT'S DIFFERENT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

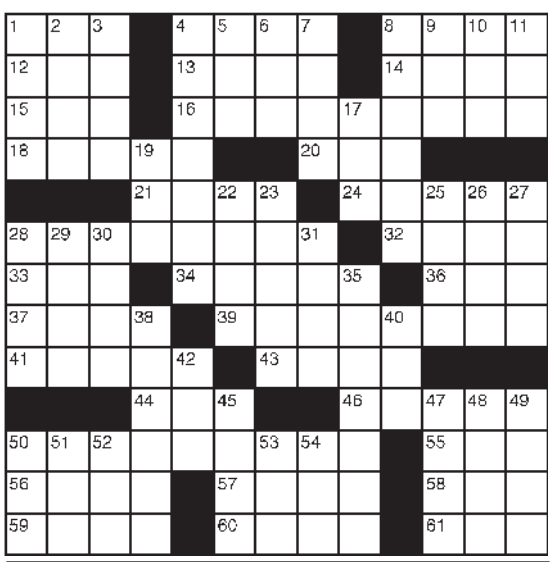
ACROSS
1 June honoree
4 Say it's so
8 Pretzel topper
12 Past
13 Travel permit
14 Done with
15 Brock of baseball
16 Alaskan city
18 Heron's kin
20 Army address
21 Dalai —
24 Slow, in music
28 Right to vote
32 Cash advance
33 201, in old Rome
34 Heat to near boiling
36 GOP org.
37 Priestly vestments
39 Cheap ride section
41 "Yum!"
43 Novelist Hunter
44 Steal from
46 Cowboy's workplace
50 Spur on
55 Tic-tac-toe win
56 Nerd's kin
57 Hostels
58 Hooting bird
59 Big wind
60 Track tipster
61 Carrier to Amsterdam

DOWN
1 Valley
2 Awe-struck
3 Gloomy
4 Online images
5 Sports-caster Scully
6 Computer key
7 Stadium cheers
8 Reddish-brown horse
9 "Selma" director DuVernay
10 Table support
11 Three, in Rome
17 Texas tea
19 Sprite
22 PC alternatives
23 Marble type
25 Asta's feeder
26 Tart flavor
27 As soon as
28 "Shoo!"
29 Bruins' sch.
30 Little lies
31 Mountain ht.
35 Most loved
38 Painter's motion
40 Genetic letters
42 Thee
45 Telly watcher
47 Cranny
48 Batman's hood
49 Actress Celeste
50 Early bird?
51 PBS funder
52 Cartoon frame
53 Yucatan year
54 Wilde-beest

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	R	A	B		M	E	S	A		S	T	L
I	A	G	O		A	R	O	W		H	O	E
S	H	A	R	K	T	A	N	K		A	L	T
			N	I	T	S		W	A	R	D	S
L	A	S	E	R			T	A	M	P		
E	C	H	O		D	O	O	R	S	T	O	P
A	A	A		C	U	R	E	D		U	M	A
F	I	D	D	L	E	R	S		B	R	E	T
		E	Y	E	S			P	E	N	N	E
T	O	T	F	M		J	A	V	A			
E	R	R		S	H	O	R	T	T	E	R	M
R	T	E		O	B	I	T		T	S	A	R
I	S	E		N	O	N	E		Y	E	I	I

Yesterday's answer 1-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nina Dobrev, 30; Kate Middleton, 37; Dave Matthews, 52; Jimmy Page, 75.

Happy Birthday: You'll face some personal and emotional changes this year. Don't fret over what others do when you should be considering what you want and how to go about making your dreams come true. Handle legal and financial matters concerning others with clarity, precision and fairness. Put what isn't working for you to rest, and move in a positive direction. Your numbers are 4, 18, 23, 31, 35, 42, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Concentrate on personal, medical, legal and financial issues. Assess your state of health and fitness, and implement exercise into your daily routine. It will help ease stress as well as give you an outlet for any anger you are feeling. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Suppress urgent feelings to start an argument. Getting along will be half the battle and the easiest way to avoid a negative response. A good idea that includes everyone will help you bypass those who are tempted to oppose you. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get involved in something that requires physical strength. It will help lift any bad feelings you might have about a situation you face at work or with someone you have to deal with today. Don't make an impulsive financial decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Opportunity knocks; don't miss out because you are angry about something someone said. The sweetest revenge is your own success. Follow through with your plans, and walk away from chaos and disputes. A physical activity will do you good. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep moving. Whether it's learning something new, traveling for business or discussing plans with a friend, peer or lover, you can make headway if you are intent on taking action and getting things done instead of just talking about it. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Do something constructive. Take better care of your health, your home and your relationships with others. Focus on what's important, and refuse to let a dispute stand between you and your success. Follow your instincts and make your move. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You will meet with opposition if you are too open regarding your intentions or plans. Consider what you have to accomplish in order to get others to see things your way. Preparation is in your best interest. Choose love over discord. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You can make a difference if you speak up. Using force isn't going to do as much good as gathering your facts and making an intelligent case to back your thoughts and feelings. A lifestyle change is apparent. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Honesty will be necessary if you don't want to make matters worse. Consider the changes you will have to make in order to appease someone you love. Take action and show how serious you are about living up to your promises. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Listen and observe how others react before you decide to get involved in a joint venture. Refuse to let emotions dictate how you make important decisions. If you feel the least bit uncertain, back up and rethink your options. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Personal changes should be considered. Taking the initial steps will make you feel good and encourage you to forge ahead. An emotional matter will spur you to strive for perfection and a better future. Personal improvements will boost your morale. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Your input will be welcome if you volunteer your help. Someone who is jealous of you or your accomplishments will try to lead you astray. Recognize who is in your corner and who isn't before you share information. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, smart and helpful. You are quick and persistent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	3	1				
	6				4			
5		7				8		
8		3				6		
1			6			4		
	9				3	5		
		2	4	5	8	3	6	
						7	9	8
							4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	8	6	3	1	5	7	2	9
2	1	5	9	7	8	6	3	4
9	7	3	2	4	6	5	8	1
5	3	9	7	6	4	2	1	8
7	6	2	1	8	3	4	9	5
8	4	1	5	2	9	3	6	7
1	2	8	4	3	7	9	5	6
6	5	4	8	9	2	1	7	3
3	9	7	6	5	1	8	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ORGANIZE YOUR DESK — Solution: 9 letters

L	C	D	P	U	R	G	E	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R
E	A	E	C	A	F	R	U	S	N	E	P	P	W	E
B	L	C	H	S	A	R	T	H	G	I	L	U	S	L
A	E	L	I	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	T	P	P
L	N	U	C	T	R	E	D	I	V	I	D	E	I	A
R	D	T	F	A	E	E	O	D	Ⓕ	H	L	S	L	T
E	A	T	G	U	T	B	N	Y	A	Ⓘ	I	S	C	S
D	R	E	S	C	N	E	A	I	P	T	Ⓛ	R	R	E
L	O	R	T	N	O	C	G	H	A	R	E	Ⓔ	E	I
O	K	A	A	E	S	L	T	O	P	T	D	N	P	L
F	B	E	C	I	F	F	O	I	R	L	N	R	A	P
S	T	A	K	P	T	A	R	R	O	I	A	O	P	P
C	P	R	E	W	A	R	D	H	S	N	Z	C	C	U
S	E	T	O	N	P	R	E	D	N	I	B	E	E	S
T	R	A	Y	S	E	A	R	R	A	N	G	I	N	G

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Alphabetical, Arranging, Binder, Calendar, Categorize, Colors, Container, Control, Corners, Date, Declutter, Divider, Drawer, File, Folder, Function, Hire, Holders, Label, Light, Notes, Office, Order, Paperclips, Pens, Pile, Purge, Recycle, Setup, Sort, Space, Stack, Stapler, Stations, Storage, Supplies, Surface, Tabs, Tape, Tidy, Trash, Trays

Yesterday's Answer: Mrs. Bieber

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CHECK YOUR ADS

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Chargers QB faces nemesis Brady, Patriots

AP
Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, left, and New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady will square off in Sunday's matchup between two of the hottest teams in the NFL.

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Los Angeles Chargers' prize for dismantling the toughest defense in the NFL is a road game against a team that has long been a nemesis for Philip Rivers.

Los Angeles advanced to the divisional round of the postseason by beating the Baltimore Ravens 23-17 on Sunday. Next up, a matchup against the New England Patriots (11-5) this Sunday.

Since Rivers became a starter, the Chargers are 0-7 against Tom Brady and the Patriots, including 0-2 in playoff games. The last time they met, New England rolled to a 21-12 win in the AFC Championship game in January 2008.

Fortunately for Rivers, past performances don't necessarily mean that much. Just two weeks after being dominated by Baltimore in a loss that knocked them out of first place in the AFC West, the Chargers (13-4) bounced back with a resounding win to advance to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

Rivers went 22 of 32 for 160 yards, his longest completion a 28-yarder to Mike Williams.

Going up against longtime Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and standout coach Bill Belichick is no easy task, but Rivers is up for the challenge.

"I'm not playing Tom by any means. But is it special to go to New England against a Hall of Fame coach and arguably the best quarterback ever to play and get another shot at 'em? Heck, yeah," Rivers said. "To get an opportunity again to go against them, 11 years after we had the opportunity in the 2007 season, yeah, it's awesome. Looking forward to it."

The Chargers face a veteran quarterback after putting the clamps on a rookie, Lamar Jackson of the Ravens, who fumbled three times, threw an interception and was sacked seven times in his playoff debut.

AFC North champion Baltimore (10-7) got to play a home playoff game for the first time since 2012, but its run ended there.

Looking ahead, this much is clear: John Harbaugh figures he'll be back as coach— even if nothing is set in stone yet— and he knows Jackson will be the team's starting quarterback next season instead of past Super Bowl MVP Joe Flacco.

While Flacco is "the best quarterback in the history of the Ravens," as Harbaugh put it, Jackson's 6-1 close to the regular season cemented the first-round draft pick and Heisman Trophy winner as the No. 1 quarterback.

Respect for Rivers

Brady doesn't know Rivers well on a personal level.

But as the Patriots quarterback began his preparations for Sunday's divisional playoff game with the Chargers, he said he only had to think back to their AFC championship game matchup during the 2007 season to remind himself of Rivers' toughness.

"I mean the guy played with a torn ACL. We played in 10-degree weather and he was still firing dimes out there," Brady said Monday on Boston's WEEI radio. "So, the guy's got all of the confidence in the world. It makes for a great matchup."

Rivers earned his lone victory against New England during the 2008 regular season when the Chargers were still in San Diego. Brady was sidelined for that game by a knee injury he sustained in the Patriots' season opener and Matt Cassel started in his place.

History aside, Brady said it doesn't diminish his respect for Rivers' abilities on the field. At age 37, Rivers ended the regular season by throwing for at least 4,000 yards for the sixth straight season. He also posted at least 30 passing touchdowns for the sixth time since becoming the Chargers' starter in 2006

Offenses took a holiday on wild-card weekend

CHICAGO (AP)—Maybe it was the absence of all those high-powered offenses on byes.

Perhaps it was the jitters for some younger teams, particularly their quarterbacks: Deshaun Watson, Mitchell Trubisky and Lamar Jackson.

Or maybe defense actually still has a place in the NFL, especially in the playoffs.

The most points anyone scored during wild-card weekend, when only Dallas won at home, was 24 by the Cowboys. In total, 145 points were scored, an average of 36.2 per game. The Chiefs averaged 35.3 all by themselves this season.

As Nick Foles—St. Nick in Philly for his clutch work as a relief pitcher and, oh yes, as a Super Bowl champion—observed following the Eagles' 16-15 comeback escape in Chicago : "Our defense really kept us in this game. It was a hard-fought defensive battle tonight and we were able to come up big in the end."

Or as coach Anthony Lynn noted following the Chargers' 23-17 win at Baltimore in which Los Angeles forced three turnovers and held the Ravens to 229 total yards, 90 on the ground: "Our defense was outstanding. We held that team down to 100 yards rushing. No one has played that team the way our defense played today. I was really impressed with the way our defense stepped up."

All the winning defenses will need to step up a few more rungs next weekend. Consider that aside from the Chiefs scoring 565 points this season, the Rams got 527, the Saints 504 and the Patriots 436. All of them will be at home.

The Colts (11-6) head to Kansas City (12-4) on Saturday, followed by the Cowboys (11-6) at the Rams (13-3). On Sunday, the Chargers (13-4) are at the Patriots (11-5), while the Eagles, who lost 48-7 at the Saints during the season, finish off the divisional round at New Orleans (13-3).

While the NFL loves to tout all the scoring records set during the 2018 season, all of the yards gained and general wide-openness of weekly contests, when it comes down to deciding who winds up in the conference title games, maybe the guys trying to stop those video-game offenses will have a say.

It's unlikely that any of the wild-card victors can win a Super Bowl without being balanced. The Eagles will need to play far better defense in the Big Easy or Drew Brees will have, well, an easy time picking apart a secondary playing mostly backups. The Chargers likely will require more than 24 points to succeed in Foxborough, where the Patriots had the NFL's only unbeaten home record this season.

LaFleur accepts offer to become Packers coach

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— The Green Bay Packers are turning to fast-rising offensive whiz Matt LaFleur to aid Aaron Rodgers and end a two-year absence from the postseason.

LaFleur accepted an offer Monday to become the next head coach of the Packers, according to a person familiar with the decision. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the Packers nor the Titans had announced the decision.

The 39-year-old LaFleur spent this season as offensive coordinator for the Titans, his first calling plays in the NFL. He takes over for Mike McCarthy, who was fired during the season following a stunning home loss to Arizona on Dec. 2. Offensive coordinator Joe Philbin went 2-2 to close out the season as the Packers failed to reach the playoffs for the second straight year with a 6-9-1 record that was the second straight under .500 for the storied franchise.

He was offensive coordinator with the Los Angeles Rams in 2017, leading a group that paced the NFL in scoring and was 10th in total offense under coach Sean McVay, who called the plays on offense. LaFleur was the quarterbacks coach in Atlanta for two seasons, including when Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan was the NFL MVP in 2016. LaFleur also has coached with Washington and Houston, and was the quarterbacks coach for Notre Dame in 2014.

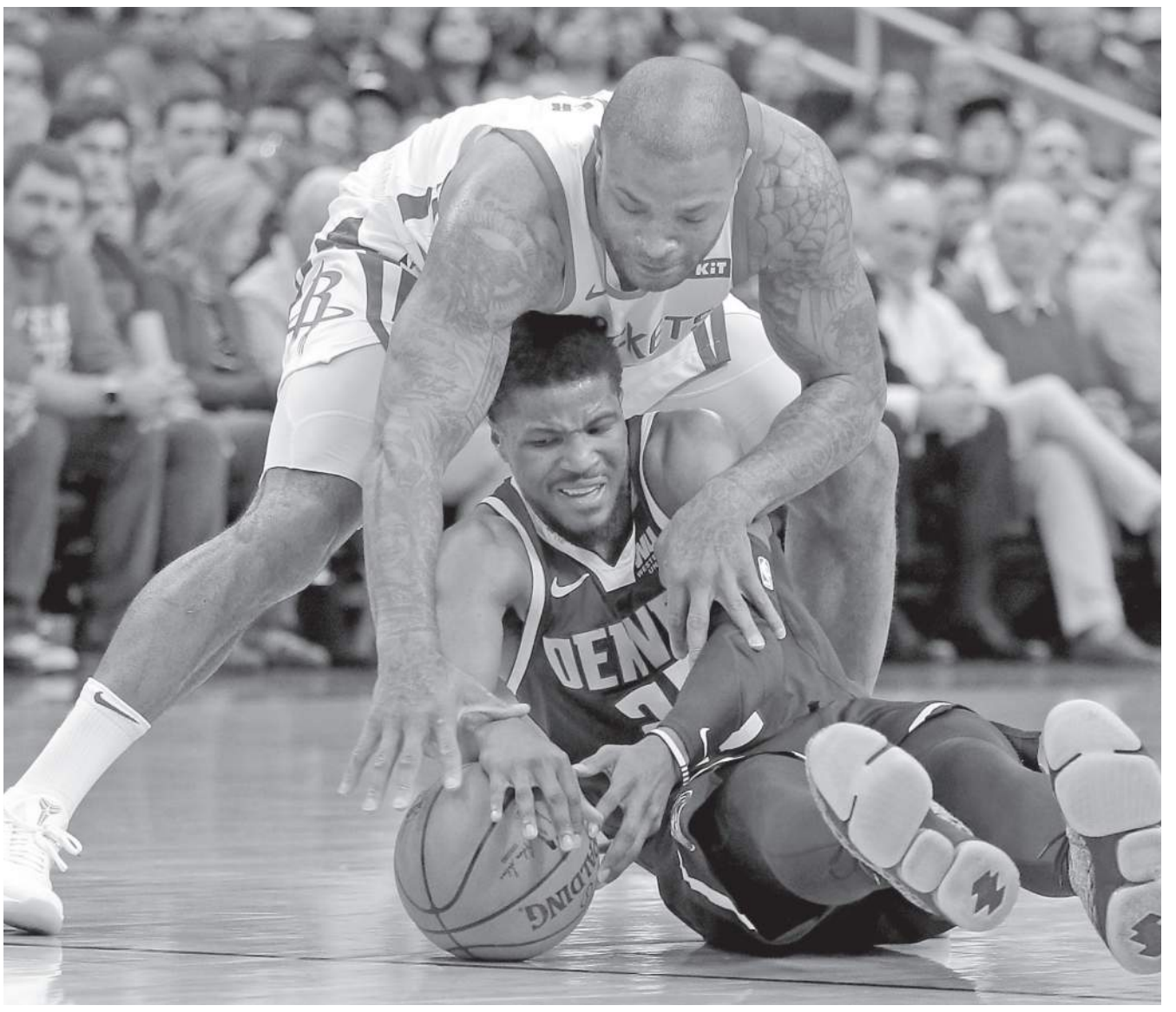
He will be charged with returning the Packers to the playoffs on a regular basis. McCarthy's tenure of 12-plus seasons was by and large successful, highlighted by the 2010 Super Bowl season and nine playoff appearances.

Still, the once potent offense that could make up for other deficiencies slowed in 2018, a tumultuous year that began with Rodgers leading a stirring comeback victory in the opener over the Bears. The two-time NFL MVP returned after halftime from a left knee injury that nagged him the rest of the season.

Rodgers' 62.3 percent completion rate was his lowest since 2015 (60.7) and his 25 touchdown passes were a low for a season in which he played at least 15 games, though so were his two interceptions. Injuries to Randall Cobb and Geronimo Allison forced the Packers to turn to rookies perhaps earlier than expected, though Davante Adams emerged as an elite receiver.

The relationship between LaFleur and Rodgers will be closely watched after the sometimes tenuous moments between the star QB and McCarthy. They characterized their relationship as close, but with ups and downs that come with two headstrong competitors who had worked together for more than a dozen years.

Hot Harden, Capela power Rockets past Nuggets



AP
Denver Nuggets guard Malik Beasley, bottom, and Houston Rockets forward PJ Tucker, top, battle for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP)— With James Harden getting double-teamed almost every time he had the ball Monday night against the Denver Nuggets, he looked for other Houston Rockets to step up and make plays.

Chief among them was Clint Capela, who set a career high with 31 points as the Rockets beat the Nuggets, 125-113.

"He did what he was supposed to do," said Harden, who had 32 points. "He finished. He played extremely well. Played hard."

P.J. Tucker set a career high with seven 3-pointers and scored a season-high 21 points to help Houston win for the 12th time in 14 games. Capela had 19 points by halftime as Harden fed him again and again.

"Whenever I'm under the rim and you put a little on me what's going to happen is that 99 or 100 percent of the time I'm going to dunk the ball," Capela said. "This is what happened tonight and I did a great job of finishing aggressive under the rim."

Houston was up by 11 after two free throws by Torrey Craig with about 5 1/2 minutes left before Tucker and Harden made 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to make it 117-100 about a minute later.

Gerald Green had 21 points and made six 3s on a night Houston made 22 3s for its sixth game this season with at least 20.

"We're just a real tough team when we're knocking down shots like that," Green said.

Nikola Jokic scored 24 points for the Nuggets, who had a five-game winning streak snapped.

"Give them credit," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "You know Harden is going to get his, but when P.J. Tucker and Gerald Green score the amount of 3s that they made, I believe 13 combined, that's a tough one to overcome."

Harden had 14 assists, six 3-pointers and scored at least 30 points for the 13th straight game.

"He's probably the hardest guy in the NBA to guard," Malone said.

Coach Mike D'Antoni enjoys watching the different things Harden does to help his team win night after night.

"Whatever they throw at him, he'll find the best play," D'Antoni said. "He'll also find a way to score. He'll find his way, but he'll also get everyone involved."

Lakers 107, Mavericks 97

In Dallas, Brandon Ingram scored 29 points and Lonzo Ball added 21 as Los Angeles handed Dallas a rare home loss.

The two young Lakers responded to their coach Luke Walton's demand for more passion after a blowout loss to Minnesota on Sunday. The duo helped rally Los Angeles from a double-digit halftime deficit.

The Lakers won for just the second time in seven games since LeBron James strained his groin on Christmas Day, and they swept the season series from the Mavericks 3-0.

Los Angeles surged ahead by outscoring the Mavericks 32-13 in the third quarter. The Lakers took their first lead of the game late in the third quarter on Ball's dunk. They closed the third on a 13-4 run with Ball and Michael Beasley scoring 11 of the 13 points.

An 11-2 run to start the fourth put the Lakers up 96-82 with 8:52 to play. Dallas closed to within seven twice in the fourth quarter, but each time Ingram drew the defense to him and dished to JaVale McGee for dunks.

Luka Doncic scored 27 points to lead Dallas. The rookie was virtually the entire Mavericks offense in the second half, making six of his team's field goals after the break. Dallas had 11 turnovers in the second half in addition to 11-for-43 shooting.

Dallas fell to 16-4 at home. The Mavericks entered the day tied for the fewest home losses in the NBA.

The Lakers came back from 13 down at halftime to tie the score 76-all when Ball hit the second of two free throws with 3:47 left in the third quarter, capping a 22-9 run.

Celtics 116, Nets 95

In Boston, Kyrie Irving returned after missing two games with an eye injury and scored 17 points to lead eight players in double figures as the Celtics beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Jayson Tatum added 16 points, and Al Horford, Gordon Hayward, Marcus Morris and Marcus Smart each scored 12 for the Celtics, who won their third straight game.

Rodions Kurucs led Brooklyn with 24 points. Spencer Dinwiddie had 15 and Kenneth Faried scored 13 with 12 rebounds. The Nets lost for just the fourth time in their last 16 games.

Irving was out after scratching both corneas in a collision Dec. 31 at San Antonio.

Playing on consecutive days, the Nets came out sloppy in the opening quarter, committing 11 turnovers—about half coming on wild passes that sailed out of bounds. They ended up with a season-high 25.

Spurs 119, Pistons 107

In Detroit, DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points, and Gregg Popovich moved another step higher on the NBA's career wins list as San Antonio beat Detroit.

Popovich now has 1,221 victories. He's tied with Jerry Sloan for third place, trailing only Don Nelson and Lenny Wilkens.

Popovich didn't seem too happy early on against the Pistons. The Spurs called a timeout with 6:19 left in the first quarter, down 17-9. After a turnover led to a dunk by Detroit's Andre Drummond, Popovich took another timeout, 14 seconds after the first one.

San Antonio appeared to get the message. A 23-2 run spanning parts of the first and second quarters put the Spurs up 45-33.

It was relatively smooth sailing from there for San Antonio, which led 59-51 at halftime and 84-73 after three quarters.

Pelicans 114, Grizzlies 95

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 36 points, 13 rebounds and three blocked shots, and New Orleans pulled away down the stretch for a victory over reeling Memphis.

Second-year pro Frank Jackson scored a career-high 17 points for New Orleans, which had won two straight for the first time since winning three in a row in mid-November.

Mike Conley had 22 points and 10 assists for Memphis, but that was not nearly enough to stem what is now a six-game slide.

Bucks 114, Jazz 102

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and Malcolm Brogdon scored 21 to lead Milwaukee past Utah.

Thon Maker added a season-high 15 points off the bench for the Bucks, who were coming off a 123-116 loss to Toronto on Saturday night. Milwaukee improved to 28-11, the second-best record in the NBA.

Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points and Rudy Gobert had 14 points and 15 rebounds for the Jazz, who lost starting point guard Ricky Rubio to a right hamstring injury less than five minutes into the game. He didn't return.

Column: How LeBron's absence could impact the Lakers' future

LOS ANGELES—The pain of LeBron James' groin injury is going to last a whole lot longer, well beyond the last ice pack and massage session, long past even the Los Angeles Lakers' star's return to the court.

All the way, maybe, into next season and beyond.

James will likely be back soon, having missed about three weeks and a stretch of games that probably won't hit double digits, in the wake of a Christmas Day tweak against the Golden State Warriors.

But such has been the miserable response to adversity produced by the LeBron-less Lakers, that the untimely injury will have put a serious dampener on not only this season, as the standings suggest, but also the team's aspirations moving forward.

Without James, Los Angeles was 1-5 heading into Monday night's visit to the Dallas Mavericks, but the most worrying part about the dismal showings put forward in that time by Lonzo Ball and Brandon Ingram is not that the squad is tumbling down the Western Conference.

Because it's not just about this season. In truth, it never has been, not since James took the decision to swap Cleveland for California. The unspoken part about the Lakers wishing for Ball and Ingram to blossom into bona fide stars is not only so that they might be valuable contributors at Staples Center, but to enhance their potential trade value in a blockbuster deal involving a major star.

Both Ball and Ingram have shown signs of positivity while James has been around, yet both have been truly ineffective during the stretch he has been out. Neither have shown the will and versatility to lead the team through its struggles, or any kind of readiness to be a leader. Head coach Luke Walton called them both out following the 108-86 loss in Minnesota on Sunday, and rightly demanded more.

"You got to play in this league with passion and fire," Walton said, indicating that neither of them are, or at least not often enough.

Ball and Ingram would be the most valuable trade pieces L.A. could offer. It took a season and a half to build that value, and about six games to diminish it.

Assuming that much of the potential success of James' time in Los Angeles will hinge upon attracting a major name, the appeal of the destination as a winning post is vital. For all of James' abilities, titles are not won by one or two individuals. And while Kyle Kuzma's injury layoff has hurt too, the Lakers' supporting cast looks a world removed from one able to bolster a title challenge, even if a significant part was added.

Free agent Harper set for meeting with Phillies

PHILADELPHIA—The Phillies front office—including owner John Middleton—is flying to Las Vegas on Saturday to meet with prized free agent Bryce Harper and his agent, Scott Boras, in their first face-to-face talks, a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations said.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are in the early stage of negotiations.

Phillies general manager Matt Klentak met with Boras during the winter meetings in Las Vegas to discuss the player, but Harper and his wife, Kayla, did not attend.

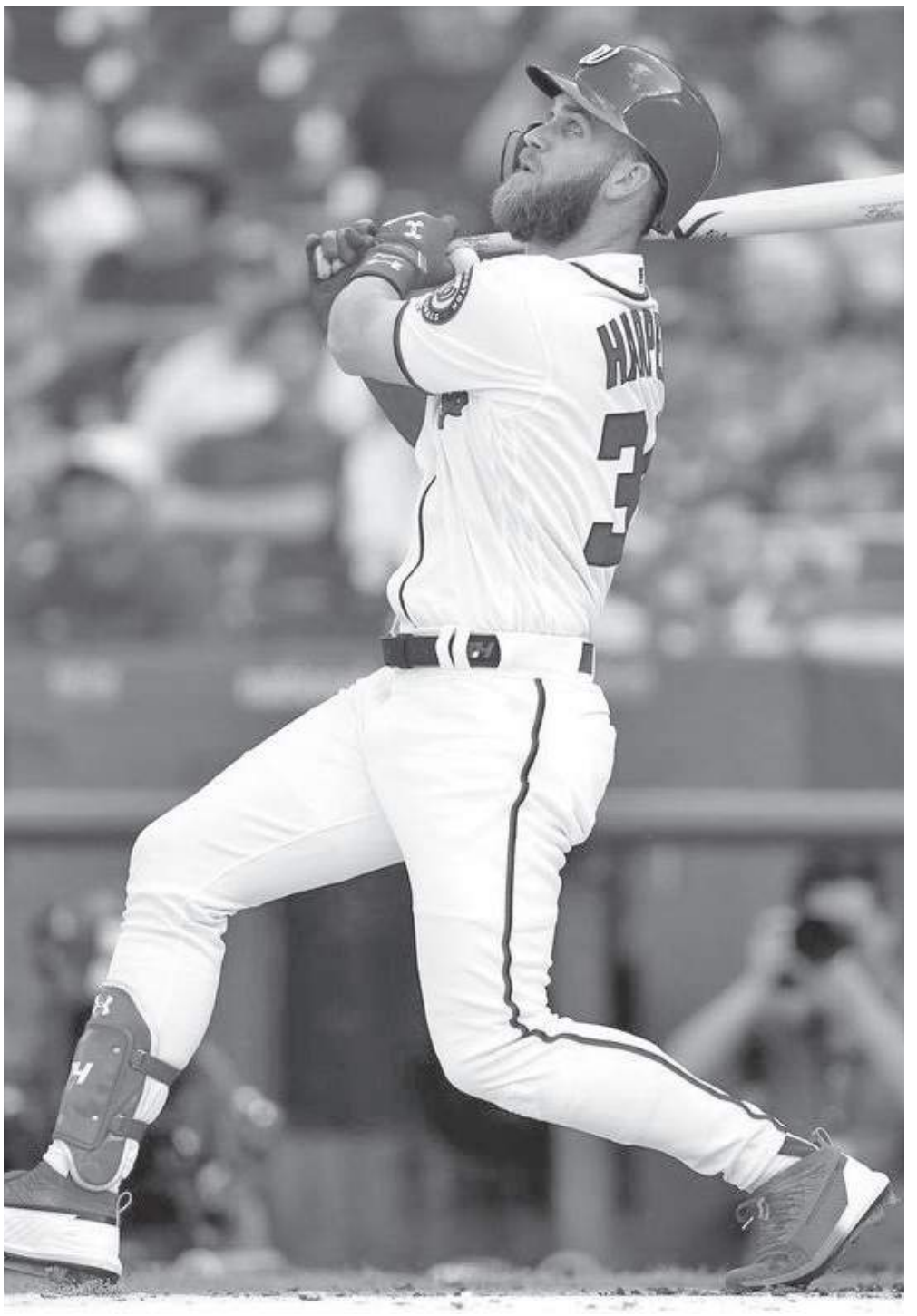
This will be the third known team that Harper has talked directly with during his free agency. He earlier spoke to the Chicago White Sox in Las Vegas and the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Harper met with White Sox president Ken Williams and GM Rick Hahn, along with Hall of Famer Jim Thome, in November, but White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf did not attend the meeting. It's unknown which Dodger officials attended the meeting with Harper and Boras in mid-November.

The only public offer Harper has received was on Sept. 26 when the Washington Nationals proposed a 10-year, $300 million contract that was slightly deferred, decreasing the value to $250 million to $284 million. The Nationals said in November that the offer was no longer on the table, and they since have spent $180 million on five free agents, led by starter Patrick Corbin's six-year, $140 million contract.

Harper and Boras met with again Nationals owner Ted Lerner on Dec. 22 at his home in Palm Springs, Calif., but it was unknown whether the Nationals are willing to increase their offer, or whether it still stands.

The White Sox and Phillies have also met with infielder Manny Machado, and the White Sox recently submitted a formal proposal for about $200 million. No official offer has yet been tendered to Harper.



AP

Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper follows the flight of his single off Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Chad Bettis in the fifth inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, in Denver.

The Phillies have long been linked to Harper with Middleton saying in November that they wanted to be aggressive this winter in hopes of reaching the postseason, ending their postseason drought. Philadelphia has already spent $73 million this winter, signing outfielder Andrew McCutchen and reliever David Robertson.

Middleton hasn't been shy about the club's plans to pursue free agents this winter, saying that in November that the club was "expecting to spend money and maybe even be a little bit stupid about it."

Meanwhile, former New York Mets captain David Wright is becoming a special adviser to chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and general manager Brodie Van Wagenen.

In making the announcement Monday, the Mets said the 36-year-old third baseman would be placed on unconditional release waivers on Tuesday. His contract called for New York to pay him salaries of $15 million this year and $12 million in 2020, with $2.5 million annually deferred without interest.

Sidelined with leg, back and neck injuries, Wright did not play for the Mets from May 2016 until the final week of last season, when he announced his retirement. Wright made three plate appearances during the season's final series against Miami.

Wilpon called Wright "an iconic Met" and said he "will be forever remembered for his contributions on the field as well as his numerous charitable endeavors."

Wright attended last month's winter meetings as a member of the Mets' front office.

"We are thrilled he will remain close to the Mets family and will be a great asset in this new role," Wilpon said.

A seven-time All-Star, Wright set Mets records for hits (1,777), doubles (390), runs (949) and RBIs (970).

"I will always be tremendously grateful for the way the fans treated me because playing in this city and for this team was a dream come true," Wright said in a statement issued by the team. "I look forward to contributing and taking on the challenges of this new role."

MLB payroll drops, revenues continue to hit record highs

NEW YORK—Baseball is a dying sport? Not so much. According to a report by Forbes' Maury Brown, Major League Baseball took in $10.3 billion in baseball-related revenue in 2018, which was the 16th straight record-setting year.

While this number is certainly encouraging for baseball fans, it's also a bit strange considering teams cut payroll by a combined $115 million from 2017, the largest drop-off in the game since 2004. This is also the second straight slow offseason despite two of the biggest free agents in baseball's recent history.

What's more, the $10.3 billion in revenue does not include the $2.58 billion sale of BAMTech to Disney, which is reported as capital and split among the 30 teams. The league is still making a lot of money despite a 4 percent drop in attendance.

How can it be that the league continues to make money without commensurate raises (or any raise) in payrolls? With the current collective bargaining agreement set to run out on Dec. 1, 2021, there will certainly be plenty to iron out in the coming years.

Thanks to reporting from Forbes, MLB payrolls can be easily seen going back to 1999. Payrolls have more than tripled since then with only four years of drops in total player salaries. That is obviously a good thing for the players, although perhaps not as fair as it might seem.

Payroll has actually fallen in recent years compared to baseball-related revenue. With revenues approaching $9 billion in 2014, baseball teams spent around 45 percent of their combined revenue on player salaries. That mark rose above 46 percent for each of the next three seasons, but with the downturn in payroll for 2018 to $4.547 billion, MLB appears to only have spent around 44 percent of its revenue on players. Luxury tax may push the total teams spend on salaries closer to 50 percent, however only a fraction of that money is used on player benefits.

Currently, the NBA determines the salary cap by a percentage of basketball-related income. While players used to get 57 percent of the BRI in the 2005 CBA, they now make 51 percent of the BRI. So while $46 million per year for Anthony Davis may sound outlandish to some, he's only able to make that much because the NBA is printing money.

MLB is obviously making a lot of money as well, and although players making a certain cut of all baseball-related revenue is not a part of the current CBA, that could be something the players aim for in the next round of negotiations.

A large reason payrolls went down last season is because two of the biggest-spending teams—the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees—decided to sit out the free agent market and cut back a combined $89.8 million in salaries.

The teams wanted to cut payroll mainly to get under the luxury tax line. Of course, this is a self-imposed ceiling—a de-facto salary cap with no matching salary floor—since their billionaire owners can certainly afford to shell out more money. But getting under the luxury tax allows for smaller penalties the next time a team surpasses them.

Here's the thing: the Yankees and Dodgers still haven't spent money. Bryce Harper and Manny Machado remain unsigned into the new year, and neither team has signed a free agent for more than $40 million, while the Dodgers traded away valuable players to the Reds just to cut salary. Things aren't so different compared to last offseason, when the three biggest free agent signings didn't happen until February, days before spring training.

It's certainly odd that only a handful of teams are interested in Harper and Machado as well, when they fit into every team's long-term plan. Every team should have interest in 26-year-old superstars. It's just a matter of spending money, which teams have shown they are less and less interested in doing over the years.

Rose reclaims No. 1 spot in world rankings

HAWAII— Just a few days into 2019 and there's already a new world No. 1 in men's golf.

Brooks Koepka needed to finish in a two-way tie for eighth or better at the Sentry Tournament of Champions to hold on to the top spot that he had occupied for the past six weeks.

But an opening-round 76 at the Plantation Course at Kapalua made that highly unlikely. Subsequent rounds of 70-73-69 left Koepka in 24th place.

Replacing Koepka is Justin Rose, who moves to No. 1 for the fourth time since he first ascended to the spot last September after the BWM Championship. That week, Rose earned the No. 1 ranking despite losing in a playoff to Keegan Bradley at Aronimink Golf Club. This week's rise comes despite the fact that Rose skipped playing at Kapalua.

Had Rose competed in Hawaii, Koepka potentially could have held on to the top spot. But with Rose staying home, Koepka was in charge of the two men's fate.

It's the 10th time in the last 35 weeks that the No. 1 ranking has changed hands, the most volatile period since the OWGR's inception in 1986.

China, South Korea open Asian Cup with wins

AL AIN, United Arab Emirates (AP) — With coach Marcello Lippi in charge and the team needing a bit of help from an own-goal, China came from behind to beat Kyrgyzstan 2-1 at the Asian Cup on Monday.

Lippi, who won the World Cup with Italy in 2006, is trying to win another title in what is likely to be his last major tournament. But it won't be easy in the United Arab Emirates.

Another coaching heavyweight, Sven-Goran Eriksson, lost his opening match of the Asian Cup when South Korea defeated the Philippines 1-0 in Dubai in the other Group C game.

In Group D, another favorite, Iran, routed Yemen 5-0.

China entered the Asian Cup with one win in seven games, including draws against Palestine, India, and Bahrain. It didn't look much better at the start of Monday's match.

Akhlidin Israilov gave Kyrgyzstan the lead with a low left-foot shot from outside the box just before halftime.

AP

South Korea's Hwang Hee-Chan, center, and Philippines defender Daisuke Sato battle for the ball during the AFC Asian Cup group C soccer match between South Korea and Philippines at Al Maktoum Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

But five minutes into the second half, Kyrgyzstan goalkeeper Pavel Matiash jumped to handle what seemed to be an easy catch following a corner kick. He was under no pressure with two of his teammates around him, but the ball went into the net off his gloves.

Yu Dabao then angled in a left-footer in the 78th minute to ensure the fourth straight victory for China in its Asian Cup opening game and improve its record against Kyrgyzstan to 3-0.

A runner-up in 1984 and 2004, China faces the Philippines and South Korea in its remaining group games.

TSUNAMI

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25-meter pool than the 50m long course pool. This pool is not only good for beginner level swimmers, but also for the experienced ones. I can guarantee, Tsunami Saipan will become a stronger swim team by training at the PIC pool," he added.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers are working doubly hard to make up for the lost time when they were forced to suspend practice sessions due to Super Typhoon Yutu. They are training for a competition in Guam next month.

Meanwhile, besides its regular training sessions, Tsunami Saipan is also offering two swim classes at the PIC pool.

The toddler class, which Kimura calls "Future Star Project," is for 5-and-under age group. Enrollees in this class should be potty trained.

For the beginner level or fitness class, Tsunami Saipan will only accept those in the 12-and-under age group. For children to make it to this class, they must first take a test, which is divided into two parts. The first part is the 10-second hold your breath in the water and the second and last is the 15-meter swim kicking using a kick board. The swim test is held every Tuesday and Saturday at 4:50pm.

For more information about Tsunami Saipan and its classes, send email to tsunamisaipan@gmail.com.

COUME

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Down Under player recovered in the second with a 6-2 triumph. In the deciding third set, the CNMI player dominated her seeded opponent, 10-1, to make it to the third round. Then in the battle for one of the eight quarterfinals berths, Kaga was pitted against another seeded player—No. 6 Madi Howell. Kaga dropped the opener, 6-0, but denied Howell the sweep when the former eked out a 6-4 triumph in the second. The Australian eventually pulled the plug on Kaga with a 10-5 win in the third set.

Kaga was the last Pacific Oceania Touring Team member to bow out of competition in singles play, as the Solomon Islands' Prudence Bird lost in the second round and Tahiti's Vaiani Dusserre-Valleaux was swept in Round 3. Bird fell to the consolation draw and won in the finals after surviving an extended finale match against Australia's Erin Stojcevski, 6-4, 3-6, 10-7.

Meanwhile, in the doubles event, Kaga partnered with Aussie Amelie Swindells and they were defeated by sisters Chelsea and Abby Scholamiero, 6-3, 6-4.

9

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the referee course because by having these youth attend the course, we're giving them a strong foundation. As the saying goes, you have to start them young. Also, these individuals play for various clubs and sometimes they are assigned to referee matches in the lower age groups, so as a player and referee, we hope they will have a better understanding of officiating after attending the course in Guam," Zapanta said.

Toves, who plays for Kanoa Football Club's and officiates small-sided games in U6, U8, and U10 division, is excited to learn from the experts since it will be his first time to attend such course.

"It's very important for me to attend this course since I am just knew to refereeing. The course will be very helpful, as I want to get better at making calls and know more about refereeing a match," Toves said.

Carreon, who is part of the CNMI Women's National Team pool and also volunteers as referee in matches in NMIFA Youth League, said that by completing the course, they hope to share their knowledge to others when they get home.

"This referee development course is instructed by former FIFA referees. Because Saipan referees rarely have the opportunity to participate in a course like this, most especially the new ones, this course is critical in developing our referee skills. We would know more about offsides, fouls, throw-ins, and so much more. As a player, it will also increase our knowledge of the game. Hopefully, at the completion of this course, we can all share our experiences with the incoming referees," Carreon said.

NMIFA will need as many referees as it could get, as the federation looks to open the 2019 NMIFA Youth Spring League next month, marking the return of soccer action in the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the islands and canceled the remaining games in the 2018 fall season.

Chargers QB faces nemesis Brady, Patriots

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Hot Harden, Capela power Rockets past Nuggets

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9 attend AFC referee course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
These nine individuals pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport before leaving for Guam yesterday to attend an Asian Football Confederation-led referee course.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association sent a group to Guam to attend a referee course that will be conducted by Asian Football Confederation.

Don Cabrera, Davy Laxa, Jeralyn Castillo, Mia Carreon, Katherine Magat, Floyd Muna, Merrick Toves, Sebastien Manabat, and Taka Borja left Saipan yesterday morning for the four-day course that will be held at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo, starting today.

"We would like to thank AFC and GFA for giving these young individuals a chance to attend the referee course. We do not have many qualified referee instructors here, so if there's an opportunity for us to attend a course and educate our referees, we have to grab that," NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said, noting that majority of the individuals they sent to Guam are in the U18 age group.

"It's very advantageous to us to send young people to

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Tsunami swimmers back to training at PIC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura teaches 3-year-old Ao Morishita how to float during a toddler class at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan pool last week.

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REPORTER

Yesterday marked 100 days of closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and with the reopening of the facility still uncertain, Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan is thankful that they found a new home—the Pacific Islands Club.

"We have started our regular practice at PIC last week. The venue is very good. We can have practice for competitive swimming at this pool," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers used to train at PIC after the Kan Pacific pool shutdown last Sept. 30. However, they had to look for an alternative venue when PIC Saipan suffered massive damage from Super Typhoon Yutu in late October last year.

"We are very thankful to PIC Saipan and its management for allowing us to train at their pool," Kimura said.

Though the PIC pool is shorter than the 50-meter facility in Marpi, the Tsunami Saipan head coach believes the former will be advantageous to their swimmers.

"Our practice pool is a 25-yard pool. This size of pool is the most popular in USA swimming. Many U.S. swimmers trained at 25-yard pool and they improved and became national team members," Kimura said.

"It is more useful for us to train young swimmers in the

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Coume competes in Margaret Court Cup

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The CNMI's Coume Kaga was named to the Pacific Oceania Touring Team and played in the 2019 Commercial Club Margaret Court Cup held in Albury, Australia last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coume Kaga, seen here serving during a local tournament last year, was in Australia last week to compete in the Margaret Court Cup.

Kaga competed in the girls U14 singles and doubles events of the tournament named after the former No. 1 player in the women's division and owner of a record-24 major titles. The Commonwealth bet was selected to the touring squad after her outstanding performance in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

The 13-year-old won her first two matches in singles play to make it to the Round 3 of the 64-player main draw. Kaga topped Australia's Janel Alfara in the first round, 6-1, 6-4, and then pulled off an upset over No. 9 seed Lucy Tansted. The unranked Kaga stunned Tansted in the first set, 6-1, before the Land

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